In the Matter Of:

RE HONORABLE JULIE A. INTROCASO

MARITAL MASTER BRUCE DALPRA

January 18, 2021



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THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	1		STIPULATIONS	3
	2	It is a	greed that the deposition shall be taken	in the
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE	3		ce in stenotype and when transcribed may oses for which depositions are competent	
* * * * * * * * * *		New Hampshir		under
	4	Notice	filing, caption and all other formalities	es are
* Case Nos.:	5		objections, except as to form, are reser	
IN RE: * JC-19-050-C			in court at time of trial.	
- 1. KB	6			
HONORABLE JULIE A. INTROCASO * JC-20-010-C		It is f	urther agreed that if the deposition is a	not
	7	signed withi	n thirty (30) days after submission to co	ounsel,
*		the signatur	e of the deponent is waived.	
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DEPOSITION OF MARITAL MASTER BRUCE DALPRA	12			
Zoom denogition taken by agreement of	13			
Zoom deposition taken by agreement of counsel on	14			
Monday, January 18, 2021, commencing at 1:58 p.m.	15			
	16			
Court Reporter: (Via Zoom)	17			
	18			
Michele M. Allison, LCR, RPR, CRR	19			
	21			
LCR #93 (RSA 310-A:161-181)	22			
	23			
2				4
1 APPEARANCES:	1		INDEX	4
2	2			
For the Judicial Conduct Committee: 3	3	WITNESS:	Marital Master Bruce DalPra	
3				
WAYSTACK FRIZZELL	4			
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq.	5	EVANTINA ET ON		DAGE
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street	5 6	EXAMINATION:	Ry Mr. Delaney	PAGE
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq.	5 6 7	EXAMINATION:	By Mr. Delaney By Mr. Waystack	PAGE 6, 62 57
<pre>4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com</pre>	5 6	EXAMINATION:	By Mr. Delaney By Mr. Waystack	6, 62
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7	5 6 7 8			6, 62
<pre>4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com</pre>	5 6 7 8 9		By Mr. Waystack	6, 62
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail	6, 62 57 PAGE 51
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603·237·8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string	6, 62 57 PAGE 51
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling	6, 62 57 PAGE 51
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string	6, 62 57 PAGE 51
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling	6, 62 57 PAGE 51
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB:	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB:	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29 Exhibit 42	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37 38 45
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29 Exhibit 42	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion 10/24/18 Order on Appointment of	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37 38 45
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 17 603-271-0302 james.boffetti@doj.nh.gov	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 42	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion 10/24/18 Order on Appointment of	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37 38 45
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 17 603-271-0302 james.boffetti@doj.nh.gov 18 19	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 43	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion 10/24/18 Order on Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem 10/24/18 Interim Order	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37 38 45 17
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 17 603-271-0302 james.boffetti@doj.nh.gov	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 43	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion 10/24/18 Order on Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37 38 45
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 17 603-271-0302 james.boffetti@doj.nh.gov 18 19 Also Present: Dawn Poulson 20 21	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 43	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion 10/24/18 Order on Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem 10/24/18 Interim Order 10/25/18 Notice of Decision	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37 38 45 17 19
4 By: Philip R. Waystack, Esq. 251 Main Street 5 Colebrook, NH 03576 603-237-8322 6 phil@waystackfrizzell.com 7 8 For the Honorable Julie A. Introcaso: 9 McLANE MIDDLETON, P.A. By: Michael A. Delaney, Esq. 10 900 Elm Street Manchester, NH 03101 11 603-628-1248 michael.delaney@mclane.com 12 13 For NHJB: 14 department OF JUSTICE 15 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL By: James T. Boffetti, Esq. 16 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 17 603-271-0302 james.boffetti@doj.nh.gov 18 19 Also Present: Dawn Poulson	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	EXHIBITS FOR INTROCASO Exhibit 22 Exhibit 23 Exhibit 27 Exhibit 28 Exhibit 29 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 42 Exhibit 43	By Mr. Waystack IDENTIFICATION: DESCRIPTION 1/9/20 Introcaso/Dabilis, et al. e-mail 1/9/20 e-mail string 1/11/19 Temporary Hearing/Scheduling Conference Order 1/11/19 Parenting Plan 1/16/19 Notice of Decision 10/12/18 Order on Ex Parte (Emergency) Motion 10/24/18 Order on Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem 10/24/18 Interim Order	6, 62 57 PAGE 51 51 37 38 45 17

1	5	7
1 2	EXHIBITS FOR IDENTIFICATION CONTINUED: INTROCASO DESCRIPTION PAGE	1 A. We don't use versus, but yes.
3	Exhibit 47 11/20/18 Notice of Decision 33	2 Q. We'll call it the Partello case for the purposes of
4	Exhibit 48 2/15/19 Motion for Reconsideration 45	3 this deposition.
5	Exhibit 49 2/21/19 Notice of Decision 46	4 A. Okay.
6	Exhibit 50 2/15/18 Motion for Instruction 47	5 Q. What are your current courthouse assignments?
7	Exhibit 51 2/21/19 Notice of Decision 49	6 A. I've been in Nashua full time beginning in 2020 and
8	Exhibit 52 2/15/19 Petitioner's Motion to Strike 50	7 I'm still there full time this year. Prior to then I was all
	Respondent's Motion for Reconsideration	8 over the place.
9	as Untimely	9 Q. So you're now sitting five days a week in Nashua?
10	Exhibit 53 2/21/19 Notice of Decision 50	10 A. Yes.
11	BARRISTE 33 2/21/13 NOTICE OF BEGISTOR	11 Q. And you did that as well for the year 2020?
12	(Electronically marked exhibits were provided to counsel via	12 A. Yes.
12	Dropbox link.)	
13	DIOPDOX IIIK.)	13 Q. And now we get to the hard part, Master DalPra,
14		14 where I'm going to ask you to put some context to your
15		15 statement that before that you were all over the place.
16		16 A. Okay. Well, I started when I started full time
17		17 in '91 you want me to go way back then?
18		18 Q. A general sense would be good. I'm particularly
19		19 focused on 2018 and 2019, but the general background would be
20		20 helpful.
21		21 A. Okay. 19 in 1991 when I started full time,
22		22 basically what was happening is that our assignments were in
23		23 different courts every day for a period of time, and I don't
1 2	MARITAL MASTER BRUCE DALPRA having been duly sworn by the reporter, under	1 remember when the year was, but then I was mostly assigned in 2 Nashua, Hillsborough County South, and Rockingham County.
3	RSA 310-A:181, Limited Notarial Function,	3 And then on July 1st, 1996, at the inception of the
4	was deposed and testified as follows:	4 family division, I was assigned to the Auburn family
5	EXAMINATION	5 division, which eventually was replaced when the Derry family
6	BY MR. DELANEY:	6 division opened when the courthouse was built.
7	Q. Please state your name.	7 I was in Derry for three years, I guess, and then I
8	A. Bruce DalPra.	8 was transferred to Salem for a couple years, and then I went
9	Q. Master DalPra, my name is Michael Delaney, and I	9 back to the superior court for a period of time, and since
10	represent Judge Julie Introcaso in connection with a pending	
11	Judicial Conduct Committee proceeding.	11 court, let's see, Nashua family court.
12	Could you state your occupation and review your	12 And then in 2000 I think it was '18, '17 or '18
1 7 7	professional background as a marital master.	13 I split my time among three courts which would have been
13	A I'm a marital master I perced the her in 1070	14 Colom Joffroy and Nachua
14	A. I'm a marital master. I passed the bar in 1976. I	14 Salem, Jaffrey, and Nashua.
14 15	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I	15 Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse
14 15 16	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I worked per diem from 1982 to the end of 1987. I became a	15 Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse 16 in December 2018 and then into the year 2019 on a part-time
14 15	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I worked per diem from 1982 to the end of 1987. I became a full-time marital master in April of 1991 to the present.	Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse in December 2018 and then into the year 2019 on a part-time basis splitting time between a couple of courts. Do you
14 15 16	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I worked per diem from 1982 to the end of 1987. I became a	Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse in December 2018 and then into the year 2019 on a part-time basis splitting time between a couple of courts. Do you recall his arrival and do you recollect any transitioning in
14 15 16 17	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I worked per diem from 1982 to the end of 1987. I became a full-time marital master in April of 1991 to the present.	Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse in December 2018 and then into the year 2019 on a part-time basis splitting time between a couple of courts. Do you
14 15 16 17 18	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I worked per diem from 1982 to the end of 1987. I became a full-time marital master in April of 1991 to the present. Q. Do you continue to serve in a full-time capacity as	Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse in December 2018 and then into the year 2019 on a part-time basis splitting time between a couple of courts. Do you recall his arrival and do you recollect any transitioning in
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14 15 16 17 18 19 20	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I worked per diem from 1982 to the end of 1987. I became a full-time marital master in April of 1991 to the present. Q. Do you continue to serve in a full-time capacity as a marital master? A. Yes. Q. You're generally aware that this JCC proceeding	Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse in December 2018 and then into the year 2019 on a part-time basis splitting time between a couple of courts. Do you recall his arrival and do you recollect any transitioning in your court assignments when he arrived in Nashua? A. I believe we received our assignments, it would have begun they would have begun in January. I know he
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	was first appointed as a per diem marital master in 1982. I worked per diem from 1982 to the end of 1987. I became a full-time marital master in April of 1991 to the present. Q. Do you continue to serve in a full-time capacity as a marital master? A. Yes.	Q. Judge Derby began working in the Nashua courthouse in December 2018 and then into the year 2019 on a part-time basis splitting time between a couple of courts. Do you recall his arrival and do you recollect any transitioning in your court assignments when he arrived in Nashua? A. I believe we received our assignments, it would have begun they would have begun in January. I know he

9

- say one or two -- maybe five or six days a month. Salem,
- 2 most of the time and Jaffrey, about six days a month,
- somewhere around there. 3
- 4 Q. Before Judge Derby arrived in Nashua, were you in
- 5 Nashua more than five to six times a month?
- 6 A. Oh, yes, yeah.
- 7 Q. And did your transition to being in Salem most of
- 8 the time coincide with his appointment as a judicial officer
- 9 sitting in Nashua?
- 10 A. I believe so, yes.
- 11 Q. How often did you work with Judge Introcaso over
- the course of your career as a marital master?
- 13 A. I was in Nashua -- I don't remember the year she
- 14 started full time in Nashua, but I was there when she was
- assigned there, I don't remember what year that was, and up
- 16 to the point where she left.
- 17 Q. And I understand in the family practice you divide
- 18 cases between divorces and parenting cases, and then there
- are other cases involving adoptions and termination of 19
- 20 parental rights and things of that nature.
 - Did your assignments cover all of those areas?
- 22 A. No.

21

23 Q. What areas were your assignment focused on,

- say that she had some experience in it.
- Q. In terms of her personality, did you find her to be
- 3 a chatty person?
- 4 A. Yes.
- Q. For the record, you're laughing and smiling when
- you answer that question.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Why --
- 9 A. I am.
- 10 Q. Why did I draw a laugh or a smile out of you,
- 11 Master DalPra?
- 12 A. Because there were times when she would come into
- 13 my office as I was getting ready to go to the courtroom, and
- she would just talk about whatever it is that she was -- felt
- like talking about at the time, and sometimes it was a little 15
- bit difficult to disengage without being impolite.
- 17 Q. She would share a lot of information with others?
 - A. With others, I don't know.
- 19 Q. She would share a lot of information with you?
- A. Yes. 20

18

1

- 21 Q. Your sense was that she enjoyed interacting with
- 22 you during the time that you had?
- 23 A. That was my sense, yes.

10

- specifically looking at 2018 and '19? 1
- 2 A. Okay. Marital masters' assignments include
- divorce, custody issues, domestic violence hearings,
- guardianship of minors, child support. Everything except --
- in the family arena everything except terminations, juvenile
- 6 delinquency, and adoptions.
- 7 Q. And those are handled by judicial officers?
- A. Yes. 8
- 9 Q. Did you have a good working relationship with Judge
- Introcaso? 10

15

- 11 A. I think so.
- 12 Q. In your experience was she well-liked by practicing
- members of the bar practicing in the Nashua courthouse? 13
- A. To be honest with you, I can't really comment on 14
- that, because we never really talked about it. Do you like
- judge so and so? Do you think judge so and so is an idiot?
- 17 You know. So I don't really know.
- Q. In terms of her level of experience, did you 18
- 19 perceive her as a judicial officer with any degree of
- 20 experience in the area of divorces and parenting time?
- 21 A. Well, I know that she had been a guardian ad litem
- years ago and I think I may have appointed her when I was in
- the superior court on a couple of occasions, so yeah, I would

- Q. Do you know whether she cosigned a lot of your
- 2 orders in Nashua when you sat there?
- 3 A. Oh, yes. Probably most of them.
- 4 Q. And how do you know that?
- 5 A. She was the judicial officer that was there full
- 6 time. My recollection is that I would do an order, a
- 7 recommendation, and it would be placed in a signing pile, and
- she would attack the signing pile on a regular basis.
- 9 Q. And -- go ahead.
- 10 A. I'm sorry. I think she was the only other judicial
- officer there at the time that was assigned primarily to
- 12 family court.

- 13 Q. Can you give me a sense of the volume of cases in
- Nashua -- if you were sitting in Nashua as a marital master,
- 15 how many cases were you handling each day?
- 16 A. Well, it all depends on the day. Some days -- we
- 17 have what we call our list days and we have what we call our
- 18 trial days. On the list days I would handle anywhere from
- six to twelve. On the trial days, they would always try to
- 20 shoe horn a case or two prior to the all-day case that was
- 21 supposed to start. So probably two or three on those days.
- Q. And of the estimated six to twelve you would handle 23 on a list day, would your recommendations need to be cosigned

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- 1 in all of those cases?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Do you know if the judges considering master
- 4 recommendations in family law cases also held their own case
- 5 docket on the days they had to cosign your recommendations?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. We've heard some testimony that judicial officers,
- 8 given the volume, might skip over boilerplate language in
- 9 master recommendations given the volume. Is that something
- 10 you experienced?
- 11 A. I'm not entirely sure anybody ever told me that
- 12 they didn't bother reading any of my orders, but my guess
- 13 would be yes. I think it's a -- it's a -- it's an
- 14 intelligent assumption to make.
- 15 Q. And we've also heard testimony --
- 16 A. In other words --
- 17 Q. Go ahead.
- 18 A. Like, for instance, if somebody filed a motion to
- 19 continue on a case that was on my docket and I would
- 20 recommend granting it or denying it, I'm sure the judge
- 21 didn't bother reading the motion and probably just signed it
- 22 no matter which judge it was.
- Q. We've also heard testimony that judges might go

- 1 A. Yes, they developed that system the last couple of
- 2 years. Before that it would go to the same type of
- $\ensuremath{\mathtt{3}}$ $\ensuremath{\mathsf{circumstances}},$ same type of procedure, on a desk in the
- 5 Q. Did I understand you correctly that after you had
- 6 signed your orders, you would personally take the
- 7 recommendations to the signing desk?
- 8 A. Yes.

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clerk's office.

- Q. Where would you put them when you got there?
- 10 A. Well, specifically they would be in the left-hand
- 11 corner where the place would be for cosigning, and whatever
- 12 judge was available on a particular day, they would start at
- 13 that pile and go through it, whether it was Judge Introcaso.
- 14 Judge Quigley would do it periodically, and once in a while I
- 15 think Judge Leonard may have been there. She would do it.
- 16 Whoever had the fortune to have a couple of spare minutes.
- 17 Q. So there was a place where you sign at the cubby
- 18 where your recommendations would go for cosigning, but you
- 19 were not at that point involved in determining what judge was
- 20 available to cosign that day?
 - A. That's correct. If I needed something -- if it was
- 22 an emergency order that I would recommend, I would talk to
- 23 the staff person who would be assigned to me that particular

- 1 quickly if your recommendations didn't seem to have anything
- 2 in them that were out of the ordinary; is that your
- 3 experience?
- 4 A. I'm not sure I understand the question.
- 5 Q. I think you answered it in the last question,
- 6 Master DalPra, so thank you.
- 7 A. Okay.
- 8 Q. You mentioned a pile that Judge Introcaso would
- 9 have to make her way through when cosigning marital master
- 10 recommendations. How would that pile be developed?
- 11 A. I would write the narrative or I would write an
- 12 order depending upon the type of case, have it printed, I'd
- 13 print it, sign it, put it on what we call the signing desk
- 14 where one pile would say "needs cosigning," and then
- 15 sometimes a separate pile would be with my name on it,
- 16 because those are cases that I would have to review, and
- 17 there might have been a third pile for Judge Introcaso, and
- 18 when Judge Quigley was there, they basically just threw all
- 19 her stuff on a cart, because she seemed to have to go through
- 20 2,000 cases a day. That's what it looked like at times.
- 21 Q. By signing desk, are you referring to a cubby on
- 22 the third floor of the Nashua courthouse where the files
- 23 would be located?

- day and just say, this needs to be cosigned, and I would give
- 2 the file to her and then she would find a judge who would be
- 3 available to sign it.
- 4 But as a general rule, no, once I finished it and
 - left it on the desk I was done with it.
- 6 Q. During a busy workday were there ever occasions
- 7 where you might track down a judge yourself if you needed to
- 3 get something going?
- 9 A. If a staff person wasn't available or they were
- 10 particularly busy, to save them the intermediate step, yeah,
- 11 I would.
- 12 Q. Did you work with a particular clerk at the Nashua
- 13 courthouse when you served as a marital master there in late
- 14 2018 and 2019?
- 15 A. I was assigned a court monitor, court assistant who
- 16 would be in the courtroom taking the record. Most of the
- 17 times it would be Aline Chasseur. Oftentimes it would be
- 8 Julie Lodes. And when those two weren't available,
- 19 periodically I would have -- they would assign someone else.
- 20 But those were the two primary ones that I worked with.
- 21 Q. And could Aline Chasseur and Julie Lodes also
- 22 coordinate amongst themselves in getting master
- 23 recommendations processed on any given day?

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1 A. I believe so.

- 2 Q. Master DalPra, do you keep a recusal list?
- 3 A. A recusal list?
- 4 Q. Yes.
- 5 A. I suppose it would be the same as a conflict list.
- 6 I don't keep one handy, but I do know that whenever I would
- 7 go to a court, usually one of the court staff would ask me if
- 8 there are any conflicts with any of the attorneys in the --
- 9 that particular jurisdiction who usually practice in that
- 10 court. And when I first started there were some, but I've
- 11 been around so long most of those folks are retired now, so I
- 12 don't really have one that I can -- that I have developed, I
- 13 guess.
- 14 Q. Thank you.
- 15 MR. DELANEY: Jim, if you could assist Master
- 16 DalPra with some of the exhibits.
- 17 MR. BOFFETTI: Sure.
- 18 MR. DELANEY: I'd like to start with Introcaso 42.
- 19 MR. BOFFETTI: Okay.
- 20 (Introcaso Exhibit 42 was marked.)
- 21 A. (Witness peruses document.)
- 22 Q. BY MR. DELANEY: Your Honor, this is an order on an
- 23 ex parte emergency motion filed in the matter of David

- 1 A. I don't.
 - Q. If you could now just reference Introcaso 43.
- 3 (Introcaso Exhibit 43 was marked.)
- 4 A. (Witness peruses document.)
- 5 Q. This was an order on the appointment of the
- 6 guardian ad litem in the case?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You filled out this form; is that right?
 - A. Yes, I did.
- 10 Q. And it was cosigned by Judge Introcaso on October
- 11 24th?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. The case in paragraph two involved a four-year-old
- 14 child; is that right?
- 15 A. 2018? Yes.
- 16 Q. And in paragraph three there are X checkboxes for
- 17 various issues that the Court was requesting the guardian ad
- 18 litem to investigate and make recommendations upon?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And then in paragraph four you set a maximum fee in
- 21 the case at 3500?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. At the beginning of a case like this one, how do

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- 1 Campbell and Robin Partello, and I avoided the use of the
- 2 word versus per your suggestion. Do you see that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And it appears that you signed this master
- 5 recommendation on October 12th of 2018?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do you have a personal recollection of this case as
- 8 compared to all the other cases you've worked on in
- 9 particular courthouses?
- 10 A. Yes, I believe I was involved probably -- I did a
- 11 temporary hearing, which may have included whatever pleading
- 12 this ex parte was, but I did the temporary hearing on that
- 13 and issued a temporary order or temporary parenting plan,
- 14 probably the appointment of a guardian ad litem and a uniform
- 15 support order.
- 16 Q. Right. And Judge Introcaso cosigned this
- 17 particular order on the ex parte motion?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. There is a blue "copy" stamp at the top of that
- 20 page; do you see it?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And I take it you have no personal knowledge of how
- 23 that blue "copy" stamp got on this copy of the document?

- 1 you determine the amount you're going to set the fee cap at?
- 2 A. I usually get a flavor of how conflicted the case
- 3 is going to be, the amount of conflict usually at the
- 4 inception, at the temporary hearing. Sometimes depending
- 5 upon who the attorneys are, and I don't -- I think there was
- 6 only one attorney in this particular case. It's my
- 7 experience knowing that this is going to take a while, I
- 8 tried to set the initial cap at something that I think is
- 9 reasonable so that the guardian doesn't have to keep coming
- 10 back to court asking for extra -- an extra boost in the fee.
 - Plus, frankly, you know, if the folks are -- they
- 12 have decent incomes and stuff, that also enters into it,
- 13 because there are times when the parties don't have many
- 4 resources, so what I'll do is I will limit the amount of
- 15 hours that the guardian is required to work on it, and I make
- 16 that clear to the guardian ad litem that, listen, they don't
- 17 have much in the -- in resources, so you'll have to -- you'll
- 18 only have to do 20 hours at whatever the fee is, stuff like
- 19 that, or ten hours.
- 20 Q. I'm going to take you back a couple of years on
- 21 this guestion, but what do you think the range was for a
- 22 divorce or parenting case in October of 2018 relative to a
- 23 cap and where did this 3500 fall in the range?

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- 1 A. It's high. But it was based -- excuse me, as I
- 2 said, it was based upon my sense as to how difficult this was
- 3 going to be based on the arguments and the testimony that I
- 4 heard at the temporary hearing.
- 5 Q. Under paragraph 4A you determined a percentage of
- 6 payment between the parties in the case?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. How do you usually do that?
- 9 A. Usually it's split, but there are cases, instances
- 10 rather where one party or the other earns significantly more
- 11 income than the other, so it's based upon the incomes of the
- 12 parties.
- 13 Q. And do you recall whether it was an income
- 14 differential between the petitioner and the respondent that
- 15 led you to recommend a 65/35 split?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. What do you recall about the background of the
- 18 parties to this case?
- 19 A. The background?
- 20 Q. Yeah, relative to the income. Did you have a sense
- 21 of what the professions were or...
- 22 A. I don't remember what Mr. Campbell did for work.
- 23 Ms. Partello worked at a hospital. I don't know if she was

- 1 pretty tough, difficult cases and she does a good job. And
- 2 she doesn't file 50-page reports. That's always a help, too.
 - Q. Do you have any recollection as to whether you
- 4 randomly picked her off the list or deliberately selected her
- 5 for this case for a particular reason?
- 6 A. I deliberately selected her for this case because I
- 7 could tell from the start that it was going to be a
- 8 highly-conflicted proceeding and I knew she was no nonsense,
- 9 and as I explained to you before, she does a very good job in
- 10 those situations under those circumstances.
- 11 Q. Were you aware of any particular background she has
- 12 in dealing with certain types of children?
- 13 A. No. I know she was on the governor's commission
- 14 for I think it was mental health or something like that. Had
- 15 something to do with mental health. The mental health field.
- 16 Q. And --
- 17 A. And the only reason I know that is I read it in the
- 18 paper when she was appointed to it, so...
- 19 Q. Would you have consulted with Judge Introcaso about
- 20 the selection of the guardian ad litem before you filled out
- 21 this form?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Were you aware of whether Judge Introcaso had a

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- 1 an RN or whether she was a charge nurse or exactly what she
- 2 was, but I think she was a nurse at a hospital at the time.
- 3 Q. The guardian ad litem appointed was Kathleen
- 4 Sternenberg of Concord, New Hampshire?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. First, Master DalPra, how do you go about deciding
- 7 how to appoint a guardian ad litem on any particular case?
- 8 A. We have -- AOC puts a list of guardians ad litem
- 9 together. Oftentimes it's a hit or miss as to whether or not
- 10 the guardian is going to do a good job. As I said, I've been
- 11 doing this a long time, so I get a sense of who does a good
- 12 job, who's going to be able to withstand a pretty conflicted
- 13 case, pressure from both parties or from one party or the
- 14 other. So it's just kind of a sense, I guess it's
- 15 experience, is the best way I can answer that.
- 16 Q. Prior to October of 2018 had you had experiences
- 17 with Kay Sternenberg serving as a guardian ad litem?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Please describe your experiences.
- A. She does a very good job. She's a no-nonsense
- 21 person. She's not afraid to deal with attorneys who might be
- 22 difficult to work with or might be -- might try to bully one
- 23 side or the other. I have appointed her in a couple of

- 1 personal relationship with Kay Sternenberg?
 - A. I became aware at some point, but I don't know if
- 3 it was before or after the appointment.
- Q. What did you become aware of?
- A. Well, in Judge Introcaso's own words, they were
- 6 very, very good friends. This was after the appointment I
- 7 found this out. That they were very good friends, they've
- 8 known each other for a while. They were in the same book
- 9 club, I think. They hung out together quite a bit.
- 10 Q. Appreciating that you can't recall specifically
- 1 when you learned that, Master DalPra, do you have any
- 12 personal recollection of the circumstances in which you first
- 13 learned that information?
- 14 A. No. I think Judge Introcaso was just talking about
- 15 it one day.
- 16 Q. Did you have any experiences that you recall before
- 17 this case involving Kay Sternenberg as guardian ad litem and
- 18 Judge Introcaso as a reviewer of your recommendations?
- 19 A. I don't believe so. I don't recollect any.
 - Q. And if I could refer you to page 3 of 4, Master
- 21 DalPra --

- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- there's a certification that the judicial

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- 1 officer reads when considering your recommendation; is that
- 2 right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And without reading the entire certification into
- 5 the record, can you tell me what that certification means?
- 6 A. Well, I believe there was a period of time in the
- 7 legislature where for some reason or another marital masters
- 8 were not held in particular high esteem, and the leadership
- 9 at the time decided that instead of firing us all that they
- 10 would put something like this in to make sure that the judge
- 11 made sure that when he or she read the recommendation, that
- 12 we applied the correct standard and correct law and all that
- 13 stuff. Frankly -- and I believe that was enacted by the
- 14 legislature. I don't remember which year.
- 15 Q. So is it fair to say that the role of the judicial
- 16 officer is to review for the correct standard as stated in
- 17 that certification?
- 18 A. Yes.

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- 19 Q. Do you have any sense when the legislative
- 20 deliberation requiring the cosignature occurred?
 - A. It always -- if you're talking about this
- 22 particular phrase, no, but it was my understanding that it
- 23 was -- I don't know if it was legislative or whether it was a

- 1 recommendations, they would have to hold a separate hearing
- 2 on that particular issue. And the name of the case was
- 3 Cornforth.
- 4 Q. Cornforth?
- 5 A. Yes, sir. C-O-R-N-F-O-R-T-H. I wish I could tell
- 6 you the year, but I don't remember.
- 7 Q. I'll give Attorney Waystack a legal research
- 8 assignment to figure that out, Master DalPra.
 - A. If anybody can find it, he can.
- 10 MR. WAYSTACK: I'll jump right on it, gentlemen.
- 11 Q. Can you please review Introcaso 44?
 - (Introcaso Exhibit 44 was marked.)
- 13 Q. Is this an interim recommendation, Master DalPra,
- 14 that you authored on October 24 of 2018?
- 15 A. Yes. This would have gone along with the -- with
- 16 43.

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- 17 Q. I'm going to ask you a couple of questions about
- 18 it, so I'll give you a moment to briefly scan it.
- 19 A. (Witness peruses document.) Okay.
- 20 Q. So the case involved an allegation that someone had
- 21 inserted a pen into the buttocks of the child.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And there had been some disclosures from the child
- court rule that prior to the enactment of this particular
- 2 language that all masters' recommendations had to be approved
- 3 by the judge.
- 4 Q. When you began your career as a marital master, did
- 5 judicial officers have to cosign your recommendations?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Was a different standard applied at that time to
- 8 the best of your recollection?
- 9 A. I'm smiling because there was a case that I had
- 10 years and years ago in Ossipee Superior Court where I had
- 11 heard a divorce case, issued a decree, a recommended decree,
- 12 and Judge Wyman was the presiding justice there at the time,
- 13 and I know he read the order, because he called me up and
- 14 thought that the property award that I had given was not
- 15 enough.
- So he asked if I would mind if he changed it, and I
- 17 basically told him that he's the judge, he can do whatever
- 18 the heck he wants. So he did change it. It was appealed,
- 19 and the supreme court basically said that my recommendation,
- 20 because I was the finder of fact, made the findings, made the
- 21 recommendations, that the judge would have to enumerate the
- 22 reasons why he or she was going to be changing the order, and
- 23 what that meant is if they disagreed with any of my

- 1 related to that and a subsequent recantation?
- 2 A. Yes.

- 3 Q. The Derry police and the local Child Advocacy
- 4 Center had been involved in investigating the matter?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And they found -- strike that.
- 7 And you found that there was no credible evidence
- 8 at the time you issued this order that anyone had abused the
- 9 child?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You ordered a division of parenting time and joint
- 12 decision-making authority for the parents, the biological
- 13 parents of the child?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You appointed Kay Sternenberg as guardian ad litem?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. You ordered counseling through a licensed
- 18 professional?
- 19 A. Yes
- 20 Q. And you prohibited the parties from questioning the
- 21 child about the incident?
- 22 A. Yes, because he'd already undergone a couple of
- 23 interrogations from family members, the police, and the Child

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1 Advocacy Center. That was enough.

- 2 Q. And you indicated -- and the Child Advocacy Center
- 3 is there specifically to ensure that the questioning can be
- 4 done once in a multi-disciplinary way?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And you indicated that it should be the counselor
- 7 and the guardian ad litem who should explore further
- 8 questioning if that was in the child's best interest?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And are these some of the background facts that
- 11 would have led you to look to Guardian Ad Litem Sternenberg's
- 2 experience as an appropriate guardian ad litem for this case?
- 13 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection to the form.
- 14 A. Well, as I mentioned before, as you can see, this
- 15 was going to be a difficult case. Whether her area of
- 16 expertise had anything to do with this, I don't believe that
- 17 entered into it at all. Just her general competence and
- 18 ability to handle these types of conflicts.
- 19 Q. Please review Introcaso 45, Master DalPra.
- 20 MR. WAYSTACK: Can I interrupt for one second,
- 21 Mike? I get 46 in both 45 and 46. If 45 is a separate
- 22 exhibit, is it possible for Ms. Poulson to share screen on
- 23 45?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Are you familiar with the clerk's numerical
- 3 identification numbers affixed --
- 4 A. No.

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- Q. -- to the Notices of Decision?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. So you don't know who processed this order?
- 8 A. I do not.
 - Q. Could you please review Introcaso 46?
- 10 (Introcaso Exhibit 46 was marked.)
- 11 A. (Witness peruses document.)
- 12 Q. This is the petitioner's motion for
- 13 reconsideration?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And referring you to page 6 of the motion, Master
- 16 DalPra, Bates No. JAI 294, it appears that you made a
- 17 recommendation for this motion on November 14, 2018, and
- 18 Judge Introcaso cosigned approving your recommendation?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. In the motion the petitioner had asked for a
- 21 different allocation of parenting time?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And in your prayers for relief, specifically under
- 1 MR. DELANEY: Yes, it's the Notice of Decision,
- 2 Phil.
- 3 MR. WAYSTACK: Oh, okay.
- 4 MR. DELANEY: But we'll pull it up.
- 5 MR. WAYSTACK: The Notice of Decision on 46, right?
- 6 45 is the Notice of Decision on 46?
- 7 MR. DELANEY: That's correct --
- 8 A. 44.
- 9 Q. 45 is the Notice of Decision on Introcaso 44.
- 10 MR. WAYSTACK: Got it. Okay. Thank you.
- 11 A. And 43.
- 12 Q. Thank you, Master DalPra.
- 13 (Introcaso Exhibit 45 was marked.)
- MR. DELANEY: Phil, do you want the screen to be
- 15 shared?
- 16 MR. WAYSTACK: No, no. If it's just the Notice of
- 17 Decision, no, no worries. Thank you.
- 18 Q. BY MR. DELANEY: Introcaso 45 is the file copy of
- 19 the Notice of Decision related to the interim order in the
- 20 order on the appointment of the guardian ad litem?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And it appears to have been processed on October
- 23 25th, 2018, the day after you made your recommendation?

- 1 B and C, you denied that request?
- 2 A. Yes.

30

- 3 Q. However, in prayer for relief D, you granted some
- 4 additional nighttime calls between the child and the parents?
 - A. Yes.

- 6 Q. And in prayer for relief E and F, you expanded the
- 7 availability of counseling for the child because your first
- 8 preference for counselors had indicated unavailability?
- 9 A. Yes, I believe the -- I believe it was represented
- 10 to me at the hearing that Mr. Foster was somebody that would
- 11 be able to do that, and then when they contacted him, he
- 12 stated that he was unavailable to get started on that. So
- 13 yes, I wanted to make sure that the child got into
- 14 counseling, so I basically said that they could select a new
- 15 one.
- 16 Q. And based on your description of your typical
- 17 cosigning protocols, do you believe that after you made this
- 18 recommendation, you would have put it in the cosigning pile
- 19 at the signing desk without having discussed the motion with
- 20 Judge Introcaso?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. In the normal course, is it more ordinary than not
- 23 that the marital masters and the judges do not discuss these

33

- 1 types of motions between the issuance of the recommendation
- 2 and the approval of the recommendation by the judicial
- 3 officer?
- 4 A. Yes, we don't usually discuss the motions that are
- 5 filed.
- 6 Q. Could you please review Introcaso 47?
- 7 (Introcaso Exhibit 47 was marked.)
- 8 A. (Witness peruses document.) Okay.
- 9 Q. Before I do that, let me just ask you one other
- 10 question about 46, Master DalPra.
- 11 A. Sure.
- 12 Q. You both use stamps on what we've been referring to
- 13 as marginal orders on the motion?
- 14 A. My signature is not stamped.
- 15 Q. It was an unclear question, your Honor.
- 16 A. Okay.
- 17 Q. You signed that and you also have some handwriting
- 18 in pen that was applied to the motion to make the
- 19 recommendation?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And in your experience in the court system is that
- 22 also referred to as a marginal order?
- 23 A. Your description of that is the first time I've

- 1 Q. And you would have done this at the signing desk,
- 2 because it does not appear that you held a hearing on the
- 3 motion.
- 4 A. I did not hold a hearing. It would have been done
- 5 at the desk.
- 6 Q. And then relative to the stamp where Judge
- 7 Introcaso's signature is affixed, do you know where that
- 8 stamp for review of marital master recommendations is located
- 9 in the courthouse?
- 10 A. I don't.
- 11 Q. So you can't tell me based on your personal
- 12 recollection whether that's in the judge's chambers or at the
- 13 signing desk or in both places?
- 14 A. Not at the signing desk, so I would -- if I may
- 15 presume something, I would presume it's in the judge's
- 16 office.
- 17 Q. But you don't have a specific -- you have no
- 18 specific knowledge of where she would have reviewed that?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Moving further back to Introcaso 47 where I had led
- 21 you, Master DalPra.
- 22 A. Okay.
- 23 Q. This is the Notice of Decision related to your

- 1 ever heard that phrase.
- 2 Q. And what I was getting at is that sounds like a
- 3 term that some people use to refer to handwriting on a motion
- 4 to issue a decision as opposed to drafting a separate
- 5 decision.
- 6 A. Okay. Then yes.
- 7 Q. That's a new term to you?
- 8 A. It is.
- 9 Q. There is a stamp that you used that reads "Master
- 10 recommends" and provides a line for the date and your
- 11 signature; is that right?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. And that stamp is unique to you?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Where would you find it in the courthouse?
- 16 A. In the drawer of my desk.
- 17 Q. Does the use of that stamp give you some indication
- 18 that you probably signed it in your office as opposed to in
- 19 the court or in another location?
- 20 A. I would probably sign at the signing desk because I
- 21 usually take it with me to the signing desk because there's
- 22 usually ten or twelve files that are sitting there, so I'll
- 23 just take it with me and when I'm finished I put it back.

- 1 review of the petitioner's motion for reconsideration?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And it was processed six days after you made the
- 4 order?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. In your experience is it unusual for it to take the
- 7 clerk's office six days to process and issue a Notice of
- 8 Decision after an order has been finalized?
- 9 A. Not really.
- 10 Q. It's a busy courthouse?
- 11 A. It is.
- 12 Q. Sometimes the paper backs up?
- 13 A. Sometimes it does. I may have signed it on a
- 14 Friday. Might have gone through a weekend. I don't really
- 15 know what days of the week these were, so...
- 16 Q. Sure. And you don't receive any notification as a
- 17 master regarding when the recommendations you have made
- 18 actually get mailed to the parties, do you?
- 19 A. No, I don't even know when -- unless I've asked a
- 20 judge to rule on something right away, I don't even know when
- 21 the judge rules on it.
- Q. In order for you to figure that out, you'd have to
- 23 be looking at the file, assuming the filing is up to date, or

using your case management system?

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. This Notice of Decision lists your name as marital
- 4 master under the text of the decision, which quotes your
- 5 handwritten order. Do you see that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Should Judge Introcaso's name be listed on that
- 8 Notice of Decision?
- 9 A. Not sure what the procedure is in the clerk's
- 10 office, but usually it is, yes.
- 11 Q. And again, you wouldn't know what clerk processed
- 12 this?
- 13 A. I don't.
- 14 Q. Please review Introcaso 48, Master DalPra -- strike
- 15 that.
- 16 MR. DELANEY: Jim, I'm going to switch piles on
- 17 you.
- 18 MR. BOFFETTI: Okay.
- 19 Q. Could you please review Introcaso 27.
- 20 (Introcaso Exhibit 27 was marked.)
- 21 A. (Witness peruses document.) Okay.
- 22 Q. This is a temporary hearing scheduling conference
- 23 order related to the Partello case?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. And at the top it indicates that the parenting plan
- 3 was initially filed with the court as proposed by the
- 4 petitioner; is that correct?
- 5 A. Yes.

6

- Q. Do I understand that if the parties cannot mutually
- 7 agree to a proposed parenting plan, they can each submit a
- 8 proposed plan separately?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And there's some language there indicating that it
- 11 had been amended by the Court?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Do you -- can you identify the handwriting at the
- 14 top of page 1 of the parenting plan that reads: And amended?
- 15 A. That's mine.
- 16 Q. Is that something you likely would have done at the
- 17 temporary hearing when you were finalizing the parenting
- 18 plan?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Page 3 of 9, there are some cross-outs in paragraph
- 21 three?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Do you know who made those cross-outs?

38

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you recommended issuance of this order on
- 3 January 10th, which appears to be cosigned by Judge Derby on
- 4 January 11th?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You had indicated in paragraph 12 that the
- 7 likelihood of settlement was poor?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. That would have been informed by your discussions
- 10 with the parties at the temporary hearing?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And initially the guardian ad litem report as of
- 13 that date was scheduled to be finalized by March 29 of 2019?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And if I could direct your attention to Introcaso
- 16 28.
- 17 (Introcaso Exhibit 28 was marked.)
- 18 A. (Witness peruses document.) Okay.
- 19 Q. This is a parenting plan that you issued on January
- 20 11th of 2019?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Judge Derby approved that recommendation on the
- 23 same date?

- 1 A. I did.
 - 2 Q. How can you identify the squiggly lines as yours?
 - 3 A. Because what I usually do, especially on temporary
 - 4 parenting plans, if I use one particular plan as a guide, and
 - 5 because it's important that -- for the children that a
 - 6 temporary order is issued as expeditiously as possible, if I
 - 7 don't particularly care for a particular paragraph or
 - 8 sentence, that's what I do.
 - 9 Q. And if you turn to page 4 of 9, Master DalPra --
 - 10 A. Yes
 - 11 Q. -- there's some other original handwriting just
 - 12 above paragraph 3 on the order?
 - 13 A. Yes.

14

- Q. Is that your handwriting?
- 15 A. It is.
- 16 Q. Please reference page 6 of 9. There's some
- 17 additional handwriting under section D, paragraph 1.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Do you recognize that handwriting?
- 20 A. That's mine.
- 21 Q. Your Honor, having had the opportunity to review
- 22 this parenting plan in its original form from the case file,
- 23 let me represent to you that although it's hard for you to

41

- 1 see it on the page in front of you, there's some White-Out
- $2 \hspace{0.1in}$ that's been applied to that paragraph and the handwriting is
- 3 on top of the White-Out.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 MR. WAYSTACK: Move to strike that statement, but
- 6 go ahead.
- 7 MR. DELANEY: What did you say?
- 8 MR. WAYSTACK: Move to strike. Go ahead.
- 9 Q. And there's some squiggly black lines you can sort
- 10 of see down below that statement?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you ever use White-Out correction tape or
- 13 White-Out correction ink when finalizing parenting plans?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Under what circumstances -- go ahead.
- 16 A. Not a final parenting plan, but one that -- if I
- 17 just want to get rid of a few words or something, I would do
- 18 that, but I don't recall what -- I don't recall what I would
- 19 have whited out if I did this.
- 20 Q. And I suppose on the topic of transportation,
- 21 Master DalPra, recognizing none of us had access to the
- 22 language at present, you would do something like that if they
- 23 had proposed something for transportation and either the

- 1 Q. And why is it that you associate the beginning of
 - 2 the use of the forms with the use of White-Out correction
 - 3 tape?
 - 4 A. Because prior to then we had the luxury of having
 - 5 court monitors. We had a form that we would mark up and the
 - 6 court monitor would just type the order out.
 - 7 Q. The form wasn't preprinted before it got into the
 - 8 court?
 - 9 A. No, this form would have been -- this particular
 - 10 one you're talking about here?
 - 11 Q. Yes.
 - 12 A. That's a preprinted form that you can get off the
 - 13 court's website or if some of the attorneys' offices have
 - 14 software that develops the form, that they can take care of.
 - 15 For instance, the typed portions of this would be Mr. --
 - 16 would be the petitioner's proposal.
 - 17 Q. Right.
 - A. Proposed by his attorney. So yes, the forms are
 - 19 preprinted and you can run them off, print them off the
 - 20 website.

18

- 21 Q. And why is it that you didn't use the White-Out
- 22 correction tape when the court monitor handled the forms?
- 23 A. They weren't these forms. It was like a checklist.

42

- 1 parents agreed otherwise during the hearing or you decided
- 2 otherwise during the hearing?
- 3 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection, form.
- 4 A. It's my experience that if the parties were to
- 5 write something in as an amendment to their proposal, that
- 6 they wouldn't put it so far down in a particular paragraph.
- 7 It would start pretty much where I wrote it.
- 8 Now, what may have happened is I may have added a
- 9 phrase in there that I didn't like and I just may have whited
- 10 it out before I presented it for cosignature. But I don't
- 11 recollect that. I have no idea what that's about.
- 12 Q. How often in your practice over the years as a
- 13 marital master would you use White-Out correction tape and
- 14 White-Out fluid? It probably didn't exist at the beginning
- 15 of your career.
- 16 A. Let's see. When they started to develop the forms
- 17 is probably when I started to use it more often -- the tape
- 18 more often than not. And sometimes if it's like -- for
- 19 instance, the one previous with the squiggly lines in the
- 20 paragraph, that would just take up too much tape so I would
- 21 just X those out so to speak.
- 22 But if there were a line, I might use it because I
- 23 don't want that part as part of the order.

- 1 Sometimes I would write out specific phrases in longhand and
- 2 hand it to the court monitor or sometimes I would dictate
- 3 when the court monitor was able to type the forms.
- 4 Q. In your current practice, how often do you believe
- 5 you use White-Out correction tape or White-Out correction
- 6 fluid to correct errors on court forms or orders?
 - A. Errors?

7

- Q. To make corrections on court forms or orders.
- 9 A. I don't make corrections on orders. Maybe I'm
- 10 misunderstanding your question. I would take this form, for
- 11 instance. And let's assume they had a phrase in there that I
- 12 didn't want and it was only a few words. I would use the
- 13 correction tape, because it looks better when it's printed
- 14 out than having somebody draw a line and stuff through it.
- 15 Q. Right.
- 16 A. But as I said, if there are full paragraphs that I
- 17 don't want, then I just draw the lines through it.
- 18 Q. Understood. And do I understand your testimony,
- 19 Master DalPra, that you'll use that on this type of parenting
- 20 plan form, but you won't use it on other types of court
- 21 orders?
- A. Just on the forms, that's correct. Once in a great
- 23 while on a uniform support order, if I use a proposed uniform

47

48

45

- 1 support order, there are a couple of boxes that say that
- 2 the -- the court-ordered amount complies with the guidelines
- 3 and it might not, so I'll just white out the checkmark that
- 4 they put in for that, and then I'll add my own specific
- 5 language.
- 6 I don't think I'm being particularly clear on that,
- 7 but I'm trying to answer the best I can.
- 8 Q. Thank you. Please review Introcaso 29.
- 9 (Introcaso Exhibit 29 was marked.)
- 10 A. (Witness peruses document.) Okay.
- 11 Q. It appears this Notice of Decision was issued five
- 12 days after the parenting plan was approved?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Now I'd like to refer you back to Introcaso 48,
- 15 Master DalPra.
- 16 (Introcaso Exhibit 48 was marked.)
- 17 A. (Witness peruses document.) Okay.
- 18 Q. This is a motion for reconsideration of the
- 19 parenting plan that had been adopted?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And it's time stamped at the top as having been
- 22 received by the court on January 28th, 2019?
- 23 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. So it seems fairly common that these Notices of
- 2 Decisions may not go out for a number of days after you've
- 3 issued the order.
- 4 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection to the form.
- 5 A. Well, it would seem that way, yeah.
 - Q. Please review Introcaso 50.
- 7 (Introcaso Exhibit 50 was marked.)
- 8 A. (Witness peruses document.)
- 9 Q. This is a motion for instruction from the guardian
- 10 ad litem that was filed on February 7 of 2019 based on the
- 11 date stamp on the first page. Do you see that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And on page 3 of the motion, the guardian ad litem
- 14 has difficulty in arranging time for a home visit with the
- 15 respondent?
- 16 A. You're talking about the attachments?
- 17 Q. I'm talking about paragraph three of the motion
- 18 itself, your Honor.
- 19 A. Paragraph. I'm sorry, paragraph three. I thought
- 20 you said page 3.
- 21 Q. My apologies.
- 22 A. Okay. Yes.
- 23 Q. Paragraph four references a need for the respondent

- 1 Q. You denied the motion for reconsideration using
- 2 your stamp on page 4?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And Judge Introcaso reviewed the recommendation and
- 5 cosigned using a stamp on the same day, February 15th, 2019?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do you have any recollection of having any
- 8 discussions with Judge Introcaso about this motion for
- 9 reconsideration?
- 10 A. In all likelihood I did not have any discussion
- 11 with her about this.
- 12 Q. Please review Introcaso 49.
- 13 (Introcaso Exhibit 49 was marked.)
- 14 A. (Witness peruses document.) Yes.
- 15 Q. This is the final copy of the Notice of Decision
- 16 related to your denial of the motion for reconsideration?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. This was issued six days after you finalized the
- 19 order on the denial of the motion for reconsideration?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And this Notice of Decision lists both the marital
- 22 master and the judicial officer?
- 23 A. Yes.

- 1 to replenish a retainer amount for the guardian ad litem fee?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And you considered the motion by recommendation on
- 4 page 2 dated February 15, 2019?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Same question, do you have any recollection of
- 7 speaking to Judge Introcaso about this motion for instruction
- 8 on JAI 211?
- 9 A. No, I don't.
- 10 Q. And there's a cosignature that she made below your
- 11 handwritten order?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Just curiously, the -- it appears the motion was
- 14 received on February 7, and you made recommendation on the
- 15 15th?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Which appears to be prior to the ten-day window.
- 18 Would there be any particular reason on this type of motion
- 19 that you might address it before a deadline for an objection
- 20 had expired?
- 21 A. Probably because the motion spoke for itself, that
- 22 the guardian ad litem had made a representation that one of
- 23 the parties wasn't being particularly cooperative, and I know

52

49

- 1 everybody talks about the ten-day window to file an objection
- 2 but it's really to ask for a hearing if you want one. The
- 3 court doesn't need to hold it for ten days. So it was my
- 4 experience to, I wanted to get the thing -- get the
- 5 investigation finished so that the child would have some
- 6 closure to the dispute between his mother and father.
- 7 Q. You wanted to keep the case moving and you needed
- 8 the guardian ad litem visits to be completed in order for
- 9 that to happen?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. So there was likely some urgency in getting the
- 12 case going that led you to rule on it when you did?
- 13 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection to form.
- 14 A. Yes. I just wanted to keep the case moving, as I
- 15 said.
- 16 Q. And then we see that Notice of Decision for that
- 17 motion, your Honor, at Introcaso 51.
- 18 (Introcaso Exhibit 51 was marked.)
- 19 A. (Witness peruses document.) Yes.
- 20 Q. And that was processed on February 21st, six days
- 21 after you signed your recommendation?
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. Please refer to Introcaso 52.

- 1 issued the order?
 - A. Yes. And it looks like the same person processed
- 3 all three of those orders.
- 4 Q. Just give me one second, Master DalPra, while I
- 5 transition.
- 6 A. Sure.
- 7 Q. Do you have any personal interactions of dealing
- 8 with the respondent, Robin Partello, in this case?
- 9 A. Outside of the fact -- dealing with her? I'm not
- 10 sure what you mean by that.
- 11 Q. Do you have any current recollections of your
- 12 personal interactions with her in the courthouse?
- A. Just in the courtroom.
- 14 Q. Could you please review Introcaso 22 and 23, Master
- 15 DalPra?
- 16 (Introcaso Exhibits 22 and 23 were marked.)
- 17 Q. While you're doing that, I'm going to ask Dawn to
- 18 share her screen for the monthly calendar of January 2020.
- 19 A. (Witness peruses document.)
- 20 (Calendar displayed on screen.)
 - Q. Master DalPra, can you see the calendar for January
- 22 of 2020 that has been displayed on the screen?
- 23 A. Yes.

21

50

- 1 (Introcaso Exhibit 52 was marked.)
- 2 A. (Witness peruses document.)
- 3 Q. This is entitled: Petitioner's Motion to Strike
- 4 Respondent's Motion for Reconsideration As Untimely and it's
- 5 date stamped February 8th of 2019?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Based on your recommendation dated February 15th,
- 8 it appears you were denying the motion to strike requested in
- 9 prayer for relief A, but you were not yet determining the
- 10 merits of the motion for reconsideration --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- in this order?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And Judge Introcaso used a stamp to cosign your
- 15 recommendation above where you had entered your
- 16 recommendation with your personal stamp?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And finally, Introcaso 53 is a file copy of the
- 19 Notice of Decision related to that motion to strike dated
- 20 February 21st of 2019?
- 21 (Introcaso Exhibit 53 was marked.)
- 22 A. (Witness peruses document.) Yes.
- 23 Q. And that also went out six days after you had

- Q. The e-mails that I just showed you were sent by
- 2 Judge Introcaso to a group of clerks, you as marital master,
- 3 and some judicial officers on January 9th of 2020 at 10:12
- 4 a.m. Do you see that?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Before I ask you about the e-mail and referencing
- 7 the calendar on the screen, do you have any recollection of
- 8 what your judicial assignment calendar would have been during
- 9 the week of January 6th, 2020?
- 10 A. I was probably in Nashua, because I think 2020 I
- 11 spent full-time in Nashua.
- 12 Q. So that could be a period of time when you had
- 13 transitioned back to the courthouse on a full-time basis
- 14 after I think you said you'd been all over the place for a
- 15 while?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And do you maintain your judicial calendar on a
- 18 daily basis in the case management system?
- 19 A. Yes
- 20 Q. So we could look to the case management system to
- 21 learn exactly when you sat during the month of January 2020?
- 22 A. Yes.

23

Q. Do you recall receiving this e-mail from Judge

6

56

53

- Introcaso on January 9th?
- 2 A. I may have. I mean, if it's addressed to me and it
- was on my e-mail -- on my computer, I would have read it. 3
- 4 Q. Right. And recognizing that we all can see your
- 5 name in the cc of the e-mail itself, do you have any personal
- recollection independent of looking at the e-mail on
- Introcaso 22 of receiving it? 7
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. The second e-mail in Introcaso 23 corrects the
- 10 subject line --
- 11 A. Yes.
- Q. -- of the first e-mail? 12
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And that was sent about ten minutes after the
- 15 first?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know if you had any discussions with Judge 17
- 18 Introcaso concerning this e-mail?
- 19 A. She may have mentioned something to me about
- Ms. Partello coming to the court and complaining about 20
- something or other, but I -- specifics, no, I don't have any. 21
- 22 I'm sorry.

1

23 Q. That's okay, Master DalPra. You did indicate some

- any discussions with clerks either about this e-mail or about
- 2 the Partello case file around this time?
 - A. No.
- 4 Q. Do you recall having -- (Zoom connection
- 5 disconnected.)
 - (Discussion held off the record.)
- 7 Q. BY MR. DELANEY: Back on the record. There was
- 8 just a brief technology difficulty with the video stream. My
- video went off, so Zoom decided to turn off my video at that
- 10 moment for reasons that aren't entirely clear.
- 11 With that being placed on the record, do you have
- 12 any recollection of having discussions with anyone else in
- the courthouse, other judges, regarding the Partello case
- file around the time Judge Introcaso sent this e-mail? 14
- 15 A. No, I don't.
- 16 Q. Did you at some time learn at all that clerks had
- 17 made -- had brought concerns to Judge King concerning the
- handling of this file in January 2020?
- 19 A. I think the first I heard anything of it was when
- 20 the findings, or whatever you call it, were published.
- 21 Q. Are you referring to the statement of formal
- 22 charges in the JCC investigation?
- 23 A. Yes.

- possible discussion about the respondent coming to the court 1
- and complaining about something. Do you have any more
- specific recollection about what that was about?
- 4 A. I don't. I'm sorry, I don't.
- 5 Q. That's okay. Do you know at all when it may have
- 6 occurred in relation to when this e-mail was sent on
- January --7
- A. No. 8
- Q. -- 9th? 9
- 10 A. Sorry. No, I don't.
- 11 Q. And have I exhausted your present memory on whether
- you have a recollection of interacting with Judge Introcaso 12
- on or about January 9th related to this e-mail? 13
- 14 A. Well, as we said at the very beginning, Judge
- Introcaso would often stop by my office to talk about various 15
- things. This might have been one of the subjects she might
- have mentioned, but I have no specific recollection of any --17
- 18 of anything like that.
- 19 Q. That's helpful, and I recognize I'm taking you back
- 20 a ways, Master DalPra, and really, all I can do is ask the
- 21 questions and test your memory --
- 22 A. Sure.
- 23 Q. -- and get your responses. Do you recall having

- Q. And do I understand your testimony that really you
- didn't notice it was going on until you read that statement
- of formal charges that was made public?
- 4 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection to the form.
- 5 A. Let me rephrase that a little bit.
- 6 Q. Sure.
- 7 A. I had heard that there were some issues with a
- complaint that someone had made about Judge Introcaso. For
- the longest time I didn't know who made the complaint or what
- the complaint was. I never spoke with anyone specifically
- about any complaints that were made about Judge Introcaso,
- and at some point -- at some point -- and I don't remember
- when, and I don't remember whether it was the formal charges
- part, I realized it was Partello, the Partello/Campbell case.
- 15 I can't be more specific and I apologize.
- 16 Q. When do you think you read the statement of formal
- charges in relation to when it was issued? 17
- 18 A. Within three or four days.
- 19 Q. What was your reaction to having reviewed the
- 20 statement of formal charges?
- 21 A. My reaction was sounds like she was in trouble.
- Whenever anyone makes formal charges, then somebody's in 22
- 23 trouble. But that's -- I think that's just a natural

57

- 1 reaction. I didn't have an opinion one way or another. And
- 2 frankly, I read it the one time when it first came out and I
- 3 haven't read anything about it since.
- 4 Q. And have you had any conversations with anyone
- 5 regarding the matter since you reviewed the statement of
- 6 formal charges?
- 7 A. No. The only -- if you want to call it a
- 8 conversation I had was with Mr. Boffetti last week when he
- 9 told me --
- 10 MR. BOFFETTI: Don't reveal our conversation.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Okay. All right. You told me the
- 12 time of the deposition.
- 13 MR. BOFFETTI: Okay.
- 14 Q. If you can just give me one moment, Master DalPra.
- 15 A. Sure.
- 16 MR. DELANEY: With the understanding that Master
- 17 DalPra will be available to testify at the time of trial, I
- 18 have no further questions. Thank you very much for your
- 19 time.
- 20 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
- 21 EXAMINATION
- 22 BY MR. WAYSTACK:
- 23 Q. I have a few, Master DalPra. I hope not to be too

- 1 appropriateness of a judicial officer using White-Out to
- 2 alter an order after it had been sent out to the litigants,
 - 3 to the parties?
 - 4 MR. DELANEY: Objection to form. You may answer 5 the question.
 - 6 A. I don't think -- I don't think it's the right thing
 - 7 to do. If you were going to change an order -- I know this
 - 8 has happened before. I've sent something out and then
 - 9 somebody would bring to my attention that I may have
- 10 transposed petitioner or defendant or I may have done
- 11 something -- you know, something similar to that. I would
- 12 issue another order, a corrective order that says the order
- 13 that went out is in error, so consequently this is the
- 14 corrective order. I mean, that's what I have done.
- 15 Q. Sure. In terms of the judicial officer altering an
- 16 order with White-Out without notifying the parties and
- 17 changing the order, what would you view of that -- such a
- 18 procedure be?
- 19 A. It's not right. I've never heard of that, anybody
- 20 doing that.
- 21 Q. Do you have a recollection of when you first heard
- 22 that Judge Introcaso had a judicial conduct matter that was
- 23 pending?

- 1 long. Good afternoon. Good to see you still serving the
- 2 State of New Hampshire. When you made your comment about
- 3 being all over, I can remember when you were in Coos County
- 4 more years ago than I want to remember, and you're still
- 5 doing it. Good for you.
- 6 So just a few quick questions. As I understand
- 7 your response to Attorney Delaney's question, your use of
- 8 White-Out was primarily with the forms that the court has
- 9 that you would fill out; is that right?
- 10 A. I didn't white out any part of the form
- 11 necessarily, but when the folks would send their proposals
- 12 in, if there was a phrase or something that I was not going
- 13 to order, I would periodically use White-Out for that.
- 14 Q. Sure.
- 15 A. So it was --
- 16 Q. In terms --
- 17 A. -- in other words, I would make the form in the
- 18 proposal my own order as opposed to theirs.
- 19 Q. Sure. In terms of a longer narrative order that
- 20 you would write, if I understand this right, it was not your
- 21 habit to use White-Out to change that?
- 22 A. Never did.
- 23 Q. Okay. Do you have any thoughts about the

- 1 A. Specifically, no.
- Q. Okay. Do you ever -- do you recall a hearing, I
- 3 want to say in October of '19, that you conducted in this
- 4 matter where Robin Partello made many complaints about Judge
- 5 Introcaso, including a complaint about conflict of interest
- 6 relative to substantive orders made concerning GAL Kathleen
- 7 Sternenberg?
- 8 A. A hearing that I conducted?
- 9 Q. Yes.
- 10 A. I'd have to go back and check my notes. Offhand
- 1 she may have -- she may have raised it, but just in the
- 12 context of she didn't like what the guardian was ordering, I
- 13 guess. But specifically, no, I don't -- don't recall that.
- 14 Q. Attorney Delaney used the words "marginal order,"
- 15 and let me first say that -- to be open with words with
- 16 you -- I don't think any orders you ever issued, Master
- 17 DalPra, were marginal, but I'm going to use the term "margin
- 18 order" for just a moment, and there's a specific -- hold on
- 19 one second
- 20 If you would go to Exhibit Introcaso 48 for a
- 21 moment.
- 22 A. Okay.
- 23 Q. You looked at that a few minutes ago.

61

- 1 A. Okay. (Witness peruses document.) Okay.
- 2 Q. The last page, it's the fourth page of Exhibit 48.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. This is not a terrific example. You see in the
- 5 middle of the page where -- it looks like it's your stamp,
- 6 Master recommends, and then --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- I'm assuming that's your handwriting, denied --
- 9
- Q. -- and then you date it and sign it, correct? 10
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Let's assume -- this is not a great example, but
- 13 let me call that a marginal, meaning an order on the motion
- 14 where you write something. I know others where you wrote
- more. Have you ever whited out an order where you use your 15
- stamp and you actually write information to your knowledge? 16
- 17 A. Could you restate that question? I don't think I
- 18 understand it.
- 19 Q. Okay. I'm trying to define the words "margin
- order" as one in which on the body of a motion or an 20
- objection, you actually write something in your handwriting. 21
- And my question is -- and it appears as though you do that
- relatively regularly, fine process. My question is whether

- bunch of questions about White-Out after orders had been sent
- to the parties; is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And I think you've previously told me as a marital
- master, you don't get an affirmative notice from the clerk's
- office when the order has been sent to the parties.
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. And if you had a case where you had a conflict and
- you had cosigned a marital master recommendation, then
- decided you hadn't intended to issue it and recused yourself
- from the case, assuming for the purpose of this question that
- the order had not been issued, do you see any problem with
- 13 the use of White-Out tape in that scenario?
- 14 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection to form.
 - A. Once an order has been -- once my recommendation
- has been approved, it becomes an order, and whether the order 16
- is issued or not, it's an order and I would not, I, 17
- 18 personally, would not white that out. I would issue another
- 19 order basically stating that in error I did this, and this is
- the corrective order is that it's going to be referred to
- 21 somebody else because I have a conflict for approval, but I
- 22 would -- once -- if I were a judge, once I approved an order
- and I realized there was a mistake. I would not just white it

62

- you remember whiting out a margin order where you've written
- out the text in handwriting.
- A. You mean before or after it was issued? 3
- 4 Q. After it was issued.
- 5 A. No. never done that.
- 6 Q. Are you -- is it a regular practice that you would
- 7 white out your handwritten text in a margin before it was
- issued, regular practice? 8
- 9 A. If I meant to -- if I meant to grant the order and
- 10 I wrote denied, I mean, I was a baseball umpire, sometimes I
- 11 gave the safe sign and I called them out, I mean, you know.
- 12 Q. Sure.
- A. That's the only time it would happen. I would 13
- never, and I have to emphasize that, never white out
- something on an order that was already issued. If I had made 15
- a mistake, as I mentioned earlier, I would issue a corrective
- order so that there's a record in the file as to a mistake
- 17
- 18 was made.
- 19 Q. That's all I have, Judge -- Master DalPra. Thank
- 20 you very much for your time.
- 21 **FURTHER EXAMINATION**
- BY MR. DELANEY: 22
- 23 Q. Master DalPra, Attorney Waystack just asked you a

1 out.

8

- 2 Q. Would you agree with me generally that corrections
- made prior to orders having been sent to the parties is a
- different ball of wax than corrections made after an order
- 5 has been issued?
- 6 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection to the form.
- 7 A. Not necessarily, no.
 - Q. And why do you say not necessarily?
- 9 A. If you meant to grant a continuance -- I guess it
- all depends on the order itself. If you meant to grant a 10
- continuance and you went, oh, I should have denied it, then I
- think you can do that. But if it has to do with a conflict
- or it has to do with a substantive issue and you've already
- approved an order, if that's an order, whether it goes out or
- not, then I think the best practice would be to issue a
- corrective order stating that this was a mistake, this is how
- 17 it's going to be corrected.
- 18 Q. And you're identifying --
- 19
- 20 Q. You're identifying what you consider to be best
- 21 practices?
- 22 MR. WAYSTACK: Objection to form.
- 23 A. Yes.

	65		67
1	Q. Are you aware of any policies and procedures	1	CERTIFICATE
2	governing the use of White-Out in the 9th Circuit?	2	
3	A. No.	3	I, Michele M. Allison, a Licensed Court Reporter,
4	Q. Thank you.	4	Registered Professional Reporter and Certified Realtime
	•	5	Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
5	A. But from now on I'm not going to use it.	6	accurate transcript of my stenotype notes of the deposition
6	MR. WAYSTACK: Good to see you, Master DalPra. I	7	of MARITAL MASTER BRUCE DALPRA, who was duly sworn, taken
7	have no further questions.	8	place on the date hereinbefore set forth.
8	THE WITNESS: Same here. Thank you very much.		
9	(At 3:31 p.m. the deposition concluded.)	9	I further certify that I am neither attorney nor
10	* * *	10	counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties
11		11	in the action to which this deposition was taken, and further
12		12	that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or
13		13	counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially
		14	interested in this action.
14		15	THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION OF THIS TRANSCRIPT DOES
15		16	NOT APPLY TO ANY REPRODUCTION OF THE SAME BY ANY MEANS UNLESS
16		17	UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL AND/OR DIRECTION OF THE CERTIFYING
17		18	REPORTER. Will & Miles
18		19	REPORTER. Michele & Iliam
19		20	Michele M. Allison, LCR, RPR, CRR
20			N.H. Licensed Court Reporter
21		21	No. 93 (RSA 310-A:161-181)
22		22	
23		23	
20			
	66		
1	CERTIFICATE OF WITNESS		
2	I, MARITAL MASTER BRUCE DALPRA, do hereby		
3	swear/affirm I have read the foregoing transcript of my		
4	testimony, and further certify that it is a true and accurate		
5	record of my testimony (with the exception of corrections		
6	listed below):		
7	Page Line Correction		
8			
9			
10			
10			
10 11			
10 11 12			
10 11 12 13			
10 11 12 13 14			
10 11 12 13 14	MARITAL MASTER BRUCE DALPRA		
10 11 12 13 14 15	MARITAL MASTER BRUCE DALPRA Subscribed and sworn to before me this day		
10 11 12 13 14 15 16			
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day		
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, 2021.		
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, 2021. Notary Public/Justice of the Peace		
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, 2021.		

4 24:20 40:9 46:2

43 19:2,3 27:16 30:11

45 29:19,21,23 30:6,9,13,

46 29:21 30:5,6 31:9,10

48 37:14 45:14,16 60:20

5

6

7

8

9

9th 6:22 52:3 53:1 54:9,

Α

ad 10:21 18:14 19:6,17

20:16 22:3,7,8,17 23:20

24:17 28:15 29:7.11.12

30:20 38:12 47:10,13

additional 32:4 40:17

44 27:11.12 30:8.9

42 17:18,20

33:10

61:2

4A 21:5

50 47:6.7

50-page 23:2

51 49:17,18

53 50:18,21

52 49:23 50:1

6 31:15 40:16

7 47:10 48:14

9 39:20 40:9,16

65/35 21:15

6th 52:9

8th 50:5

91 7:17

13 65:2

a.m. 52:4

ability 29:18

abused 28:8

access 41:21

48:1,22 49:8

address 48:19

addressed 53:2

add 45:4

added 42:8

49 46:12,13

47 33:6,7 35:20

1
1 39:14 40:17
10:12 52:3
10th 38:3
11th 38:4,20
12 38:6
12th 18:5
14 31:17
15 48:4
15th 46:5 48:15 50:7
17 8:12
18 8:12
19 7:21 10:1 60:3
1976 6:14
1982 6:15,16
1987 6:16
1991 6:17 7:21
1996 8:3
1st 8:3
150.0
2
2 48:4
2,000 14:20
20 20:18
2000 8:12
2006 8:10
2018 7:19 8:16 10:1
16:14 18:5 19:15 20:22 22:16 27:14 30:23 31:17
2019 7:19 8:16 16:14
38:13,20 45:22 46:5
47:10 48:4 50:5,20
2020 7:6,11 51:18,22 52:3,9,10,21 55:18
211 48:8
21st 49:20 50:20
22 51:14,16 53:7
23 51:14,16 53:9
24 27:14
24th 19:11
25th 30:23
27 37:19,20
28 38:16,17
28th 45:22
29 38:13 45:8,9
29 36.13 45.6,9 294 31:16
434 31.10
3
3 24:20 39:20 40:12
47:13.20
47:13,20 310-A:181 6:3

3500 19:21 20:23

3:31 65:9

adopted 45:19 adoptions 9:19 10:6 Advocacy 28:3 29:1,2 affirmative 63:5 affixed 31:3 35:7 afraid 22:21 afternoon 58:1 agree 39:7 64:2 agreed 42:1 ahead 12:9 13:17 41:6,8, 15 **Aline** 16:17,21 all-day 12:20 allegation 27:20 allocation 31:21 alter 59:2 altering 59:15 amended 39:11,14 amendment 42:5 amount 20:1,3,14 45:2 48:1 **AOC** 22:8 apologies 47:21 apologize 56:15 appealed 26:18 appears 18:4 30:22 31:16 38:3 45:11 48:13, 17 50:8 61:22 applied 25:12 26:7 33:18 41:2 appoint 22:7 appointed 6:15 10:22 22:3,23 23:18 28:15 appointment 9:8 18:14 19:5 24:3,6 30:20 Appreciating 24:10 appropriateness 59:1 approval 33:2 63:21 approved 26:2 38:22 45:12 63:16,22 64:14 approving 31:18 April 6:17 area 10:20 29:15 areas 9:21,23 arena 10:5 arguments 21:3 arranging 47:14 arrival 8:18 arrived 8:19 9:4 assign 16:19 assigned 8:1,4,22,23 9:15 12:11 15:23 16:15 assignment 9:23 27:8 52:8 assignments 7:5,22 8:19,20 9:21 10:2 assist 17:15 assistant 16:15

associate 43:1

assume 44:11 61:12 assuming 36:23 61:8 63:11 assumption 13:14 attachments 47:16 attack 12:8 attention 38:15 59:9 attorney 20:6 27:7 43:18 58:7 60:14 62:23 attorneys 17:8 20:5 22:21 attorneys' 43:13 Auburn 8:4 authored 27:14 authority 28:12 availability 32:7 avoided 18:1 award 26:14 aware 6:21 23:11,23 24:2,4 65:1 В back 7:17 8:9 20:10,20 34:23 35:20 45:14 52:13 54:19 55:7 60:10 **background** 6:13 7:19 21:17,19 23:11 29:10 backs 36:12 **ball** 64:4 bar 6:14 10:13 baseball 62:10 based 21:1,2,3,11 32:16 35:11 47:10 50:7 basically 7:22 14:18 26:17,19 32:14 63:19 basis 8:17 12:8 52:13,18 **Bates** 31:16 began 8:15 26:4 beginning 7:6 19:23 42:14 43:1 54:14 begun 8:21 biological 28:12 bit 11:16 24:9 56:5 black 41:9 blue 18:19,23 **body** 61:20 Boffetti 17:17,19 37:18 57:8,10,13 boilerplate 13:8 book 24:8 boost 20:10 bother 13:12.21 **boxes** 45:1 briefly 27:18 **bring** 59:9 brought 55:17 **Bruce** 6:1,8 built 8:6

bully 22:22 **bunch** 63:1 busy 16:6,10 36:10 buttocks 27:21 С **C-O-R-N-F-O-R-T-H** 27:5 calendar 51:18,20,21 52:7.8.17 call 7:2 12:17 14:13 55:20 57:7 61:13 called 26:13 62:11 calls 32.4 Campbell 6:22 18:1 21:22 cap 20:1,8,23 capacity 6:18 care 40:7 43:14 career 9:12 26:4 42:15 cart 14:19 case 6:22 7:2 12:20 13:4, 19 14:12 18:7 19:6,13, 21,23 20:2,6,22 21:6,18 22:7,13 23:5,6 24:17 26:9,11 27:2,20 29:12,15 37:1,23 40:22 49:7,12,14 51:8 52:18,20 55:2,13 56:14 63:8,11 cases 9:18,19 12:13,15 13:1,4 14:16,20 18:8 21:9 23:1 Center 28:4 29:1,2 certification 24:23 25:4, 5,17 chambers 35:12 change 26:18 58:21 59:7 changed 26:16 changing 26:22 59:17 charge 22:1 **charges** 55:22 56:3,13, 17,20,22 57:6 Chasseur 16:17,21 chatty 11:3 check 60:10 checkboxes 19:16 checklist 43:23 checkmark 45:3 child 10:4 19:14 27:21,23 28:3,9,13,21,23 29:2 32:4,7,13 49:5 child's 29:8 children 23:12 40:5 Circuit 6:22 65:2 circumstances 15:3 23:10 24:12 41:15 clear 20:16 45:6 55:10 clerk 16:12 37:11 clerk's 15:4 31:2 36:7 37:9 63:5 clerks 52:2 55:1,16 closure 49:6

club 24:9 coincide 9:8 comment 10:14 58:2 commission 23:13 Committee 6:11 common 47:1 compared 18:8 competence 29:17 complaining 53:20 54:2 complaint 56:8,9,10 60:5 complaints 56:11 60:4 completed 49:8 complies 45:2 computer 53:3 concerns 55:17 concluded 65:9 Concord 22:4 conduct 6:11 59:22 conducted 60:3,8 conference 37:22 conflict 17:5 20:3 60:5 63:8,21 64:12 conflicted 20:2 22:12 conflicts 17:8 29:18 connection 6:10 55:4 considered 48:3 consulted 23:19 contacted 32:11 context 7:14 60:12 continuance 64.9 11 continue 6:18 13:19 conversation 57:8,10 conversations 57:4 cooperative 48:23 coordinate 16:22 Coos 58:3 copy 18:19,23 30:18 46:15 50:18 **corner** 15:11 Cornforth 27:3.4 61:10 63:7 corrected 64:17 correction 41:12.13 42:13 43:2,22 44:5,13

correct 15:21 25:12,16 30:7 34:12 39:4 44:6,22 corrections 44:8,9 64:2,4 corrective 59:12,14 62:16 63:20 64:16 correctly 15:5 corrects 53:9 cosign 13:5 15:20 26:5 50:14 cosignature 25:20 42:10 48:10

cosigned 12:1,23 16:1

46:5 63:9

18:16 19:10 31:18 38:3

cosigning 14:9,14 15:11, 18 32:17,18 counseling 28:17 32:7, counselor 29:6 counselors 32:8 County 8:2 58:3 couple 8:8,17 10:23 15:1, court 8:9,11,19 10:23 court's 43:13 court-ordered 45:2 courthouse 7:5 8:6,15 courthouses 18:9 courtroom 11:13 16:16 courts 7:23 8:13,17 cover 9:21 credible 28:7 cross-outs 39:20,23 cubby 14:21 15:17 curiously 48:13 current 7:5 44:4 51:11 custody 10:3 daily 52:18 Dalpra 6:1,8,9 7:13 11:11

D

14:6 17:2,16 22:6 24:11,

21 27:8,13 29:19 30:12

31:16 33:10 35:21 37:14

40:9 41:21 44:19 45:15

51:4,15,21 53:23 54:20

23 65:6

63:10

57:14,17,23 60:17 62:19,

16 20:20 22:23 27:17

12:12 16:15 17:7,10

33:21 34:19 39:3.11

45:22 49:3 53:20 54:1

19:17 20:10 26:1,10,19

43:5,6,8,22 44:2,3,6,8,20

10:13 14:22 16:13 34:15

35:9 36:10 51:12 52:13

28:22 45:1

55:13

51:13

date 34:10 36:23 38:13. 23 47:11 50:5 61:10 dated 48:4 50:7,19 **David** 17:23 Dawn 51:17 day 7:23 12:15,16,23 14:20 15:12,20 16:1,23 24:15 30:23 46:5 days 7:9 9:1,2 12:16,17 18,19,21 13:5 36:3,7,15 45:12 46:18 47:2 49:3,20 50:23 56:18 deadline 48:19 deal 22:21 dealing 23:12 51:7,9 December 8:16 decent 20:12 decided 25:9 42:1 55:9

55:6

discussions 38:9 46:8

53:17 55:1.12

disengage 11:16

displayed 51:20,22

deciding 22:6 decision 30:1,5,6,9,17,19 31:5 34:4,5 35:23 36:8 37:3,4,8 45:11 46:15,21 49:16 50:19 decision-making 28:12 Decisions 47:2 **decree** 26:11 defendant 59:10 **define** 61:19 degree 10:19 Delaney 6:6,9 17:15,18, 22 30:1,4,7,14,18 37:16 41:7 55:7 57:16 59:4 60:14 62:22 Delaney's 58:7 deliberately 23:4,6 deliberation 25:20 delinquency 10:6 denial 46:16,19 denied 32:1 46:1 61:8 62:10 64:11 denying 13:20 50:8 depending 14:12 20:4 depends 12:16 64:10 deposed 6:4 **deposition** 7:3 57:12 65:9 Derby 8:15 9:4 38:3,22 **Derry** 8:5,7 28:3 describe 22:19 description 32:16 33:23 desk 14:13.21 15:3.7 16:5 32:19 34:16,20,21 35:1,5,13,14 determine 20:1 determined 21:5 **determining** 15:19 50:9 develop 42:16 developed 14:10 15:1 17:12 develops 43:14 dictate 44:2 diem 6:15.16 differential 21:14 difficult 11:16 21:2 22:22 23:1 29:15 difficulty 47:14 55:8 direct 38:15 disagreed 26:23 disclosures 27:23 disconnected 55:5 discuss 32:23 33:4 discussed 32:19 discussion 46:10 54:1

dispute 49:6 divide 9:17 division 8:4,5,6 28:11 divorce 10:3 20:22 26:11 divorces 9:18 10:20 docket 13:5,19 document 17:21 18:23 19:4 27:19 31:11 33:8 37:21 38:18 45:10,17 46:14 47:8 49:19 50:2,22 51:19 61:1 domestic 10:3 drafting 34:4 draw 11:10 44:14,17 **drawer** 34:16 duly 6:2 e-mail 52:6,23 53:3,5,6,9, 12,18 54:6,13 55:1,14 e-mails 52:1 earlier 62:16 earns 21:10 emergency 15:22 17:23 emphasize 62:14 enacted 25:13 enactment 26:1 end 6:16 enjoyed 11:21 ensure 29:3 entered 29:17 50:15 enters 20:12 entire 25:4 entitled 50:3 enumerate 26:21 error 59:13 63:19 errors 44:6.7 esteem 25:8 estimated 12:22 eventually 8:5 evidence 28:7 62:21 excuse 21:1

EXAMINATION 6:5 57:21 exhausted 54:11 exhibit 17:20 19:3 27:12 29:22 30:13 31:10 33:7 37:20 38:17 45:9,16 46:13 47:7 49:18 50:1,21 60:20 61:2 exhibits 17:16 51:16 exist 42:14 expanded 32:6 expeditiously 40:6 **experience** 10:12.18.20 11:1 14:3 20:7 22:15 29:12 33:21 36:6 42:4 49.4 experienced 13:10

experiences 22:16,19 24:16 expertise 29:16 expired 48:20 explained 23:9 explore 29:7 extra 20:10

F fact 26:20 51:9 facts 29:10 fair 25:15 fairly 47:1 fall 20:23 familiar 31:2 family 8:4,5,10,11 9:17 10:5 12:12 13:4 28:23 father 49:6 February 46:5 47:10 48:4,14 49:20 50:5,7,20 fee 19:20 20:1,10,18 48:1 felt 11:14 field 23:15 figure 27:8 36:22 file 16:2 23:2 30:18 36:23 40:22 49:1 50:18 55:2, 14,18 62:17 filed 13:18 17:23 33:5 39:3 47:10 files 14:22 34:22 filing 36:23 fill 58:9 filled 19:8 23:20 final 41:16 46:15 finalized 36:8 38:13 46:18 finalizing 39:17 41:13 finally 50:18 find 11:2 16:2 27:9 34:15 finder 26:20 findings 26:20 55:20 fine 61:23 finished 16:4 34:23 49:5 firing 25:9 flavor 20:2 floor 14:22 fluid 42:14 44:6 focused 7:19 9:23 folks 17:11 20:11 58:11 form 19:8 23:21 29:13 40:22 42:3 43:5,7,9,12 14 44:10,20 47:4 49:13 56:4 58:10,17 59:4 63:14 64:6.22

formal 55:21 56:3,13,16,

forms 42:16 43:2,18,22,

23 44:3,6,8,22 58:8

20,22 57:6

fortune 15:16

Foster 32:10 found 24:7 28:6.7 four-year-old 19:13 fourth 61:2 frankly 20:11 25:13 57:2 Friday 36:14 friends 24:6,7 front 41:1 full 7:6,7,16,21 9:14 12:5 44:16 full-time 6:17,18 52:11, 13

G

Function 6:3

GAL 60:6 gave 62:11 general 7:18,19 16:4 29:17 generally 6:21 64:2 gentlemen 27:10 give 12:13 16:1 27:7,18 34:17 51:4 57:14 good 7:18 10:9 22:10,11, 20 23:1,9 24:6,7 58:1,5 65:6 governing 65:2 governor's 23:13 grant 62:9 64:9,10 granted 32:3 granting 13:20 great 44:22 61:12 group 52:2

guardians 22:8 guardianship 10:4 guess 8:7 13:12 17:13 22:14 60:13 64:9

guardian 10:21 18:14

7,10,17 23:20 24:17

19:6,17 20:9,15,16 22:3,

28:15 29:7,11,12 30:20

38:12 47:9,13 48:1,22

guide 40:4 guidelines 45:2

49:8 60:12

н

habit 58:21 Hampshire 22:4 58:2 hand 44:2 handle 12:18,22 29:18 handled 10:7 43:22 handling 12:15 55:18 **handwriting** 33:17 34:3 39:13 40:11,14,17,19 41:2 61:8,21 62:2 handwritten 37:5 48:11

62:7

handy 17:6

happened 42:8 59:8 happening 7:22 hard 7:13 40:23 health 23:14,15 heard 13:7,15,23 21:4 26:11 34:1 55:19 56:7 59:19,21 hearing 18:11,12 20:4 21:4 27:1 32:10 35:2,4 37:22 38:10 39:17 42:1,2 49:2 60:2,8 hearings 10:3 heck 26:18 held 13:4 25:8 35:2 55:6 helpful 7:20 54:19 high 21:1 25:8 highly-conflicted 23:8 Hillsborough 8:2 hit 22:9 hold 27:1 35:4 49:3 60:18 home 47:14 honest 10:14 Honor 17:22 33:15 40:21 47:18 49:17 hope 57:23 horn 12:20 hospital 21:23 22:2

happen 49:9 62:13

hours 20:15,18,19 hung 24:9

idea 42:11 identification 31:3 identify 39:13 40:2 identifying 64:18,20 idiot 10:16 impolite 11:16 important 40:5 inception 8:3 20:4 incident 28:21 include 10:2 included 18:11 including 60:5 income 21:11,13,20 incomes 20:12 21:11 independent 53:6 indicating 39:10 indication 34:17 information 11:17,19 24:13 61:16 informed 38:9 initial 20.8 initially 38:12 39:3 ink 41:13 inserted 27:21 instance 13:18 42:19

43:15 44:11

instances 21:9 **instruction** 47:9 48:7 intelligent 13:14 intended 63:10 interacting 11:21 54:12 interactions 51:7,12 interest 29:8 60:5 interim 27:13 30:19 intermediate 16:10 interrogations 28:23 interrupt 29:20 introcaso 6:10 9:11 10:10 14:8,17 15:13 17:18,20 18:16 19:2,3,10 23:19,23 24:14,18 27:11, 12 29:19 30:9,13,18 31:9,10,18 32:20 33:6,7 35:20 37:14,19,20 38:15, 17 45:8,9,14,16 46:4,8, 12,13 47:6,7 48:7 49:17, 18,23 50:1,14,18,21 51:14,16 52:2 53:1,7,9, 18 54:12,15 55:14 56:8, 11 59:22 60:5,20

Introcaso's 24:5 35:7

investigate 19:18 investigating 28:4 investigation 49:5 55:22 involved 15:19 18:10 19:13 27:20 28:4

involving 9:19 24:17 issuance 33:1 38:2 issue 27:2 34:4 36:7

involves 6:22

59:12 62:16 63:10,18 64:13,15

issued 18:13 26:11 28:8 38:19 40:6 45:11 46:18 47:3 51:1 56:17 60:16 62:3,4,8,15 63:12,17

issues 10:3 19:17 56:7

January 8:21 38:3,4,19

Jaffrey 8:14 9:2

JAI 31:16 48:8

45:22 51:18,21 52:3,9,21 53:1 54:7,13 55:18 JCC 6:21 55:22 Jim 17:15 37:16 job 22:10,12,20 23:1,9 joint 28:11 judge 6:10 8:15 9:4,11 10:9,16 13:20,22 14:8, 17,18 15:12,13,14,15,19 16:2.7 18:16 19:10 23:19,23 24:5,14,18 25:10 26:3,12,17,21 31:18 32:20 35:6 36:20, 21 37:7 38:3,22 46:4,8 48:7 50:14 52:2.23 53:17 54:12,14 55:14,17 56:8,

11 59:22 60:4 62:19

judge's 35:12,15 judges 13:3,23 32:23 55:13 judicial 6:11 9:8 10:7,19 12:5,10 13:7 24:23 25:15 26:5 33:2 46:22 52:3,8, 17 59:1.15.22 Julie 6:10 16:18,21 July 8:3 jump 27:10 jurisdiction 17:9 justice 26:12 juvenile 10:5

63:22

K

Kathleen 22:3 60:6 Kay 22:17 24:1,17 28:15 kind 22:14 King 55:17 knew 23:8 knowing 20:7 61:16

knowledge 18:22 35:18 L language 13:8 26:2 39:10 41:22 45:5 late 16:13 laugh 11:10 laughing 11:5 law 13:4 25:12 leadership 25:8 learn 52:21 55:16 learned 24:11,13 led 21:15 29:11 35:20 49:12 left 9:16 16:5 left-hand 15:10 legal 27:7 legislative 25:19,23 legislature 25:7,14 Leonard 15:15 level 10:18 licensed 28:17 likelihood 38:7 46:10 limit 20:14 Limited 6:3

lines 40:2 41:9 42:19 44:17 list 12:17,18,23 17:2,3,5 22:8 23:4 listed 37:7 listen 20:16

lists 37:3 46:21 litem 10:21 18:14 19:6,18 20:16 22:3,7,8,17 23:20 24:17 28:15 29:7,11,12 30:20 38:12 47:10,13

48:1,22 49:8 litigants 59:2 local 28:3 located 14:23 35:8 location 34:19 Lodes 16:18,21 long 17:11 22:11 58:1 longer 58:19 longest 56:9 longhand 44:1 looked 14:20 60:23 lot 11:17,19 12:1 luxury 43:4

made 25:11 26:20 30:23 31:16 32:17 36:3,17 39:23 48:10,14,22 55:17 56:3,8,9,11 58:2 60:4,6 62:15.18 64:3.4

mailed 36:18 maintain 52:17

make 13:14 14:9 19:18 20:15 25:10 32:13 33:18 44:8.9 58:17

makes 56:22 management 37:1 52:18, 20

March 38:13 margin 60:17 61:19 62:1,

marginal 33:13,22 60:14, 17 61:13

marital 6:1,13,14,15,17, 19.22 9:12 10:2 12:14 14:9 16:13 25:7 26:4 32:23 35:8 37:3 42:13 46:21 52:2 63:4,9

mark 43:5

marked 17:20 19:3 27:12 30:13 31:10 33:7 37:20 38:17 45:9,16 46:13 47:7 49:18 50:1,21 51:16

master 6:1,9,13,14,15, 17,19 7:13 9:12 11:11 12:14 13:3,9 14:6,9 16:13,22 17:2,15 18:4 22:6 24:11,20 26:4 27:8, 13 29:19 30:12 31:15 33:10 34:9 35:8,21 36:17 37:4,14 40:9 41:21 42:13 44:19 45:15 46:22 51:4, 14,21 52:2 53:23 54:20 57:14,16,23 60:16 61:6 62:19,23 63:5,9 65:6

masters 25:7 32:23 masters' 10:2 26:2 matter 13:22 17:23 28:4 57:5 59:22 60:4 maximum 19:20 meaning 61:13

means 25:5 meant 26:23 62:9 64:9,10 members 10:13 28:23

memory 54:11,21 mental 23:14,15 mentioned 14:8 29:14 53:19 54:17 62:16 merits 50:10 Merrimack 8:10,22

Michael 6:9 middle 61:5

Mike 29:21 mind 26:16

mine 39:15 40:20

minors 10:4

minutes 15:16 53:14 60:23

mistake 62:16,17 63:23 64:16

misunderstanding 44:10

moment 27:18 55:10 57:14 60:18.21

monitor 16:15 43:6,22 44:2,3

monitors 43:5

month 9:1,2,5 52:21

monthly 51:18

mother 49:6

motion 13:18,21 17:23 18:17 31:12,15,17,20 32:19 33:13,18 34:3 35:3 36:1 45:18 46:1,8,16,19 47:9,13,17 48:3,7,13,18, 21 49:17 50:3,4,8,10,19 61:13,20

motions 33:14 Move 41:5,8 moving 35:20 49:7,14 multi-disciplinary 29:4 mutually 39:6

N

named 6:22 narrative 14:11 58:19 Nashua 7:6,9 8:2,11,14, 15,19,22,23 9:4,5,9,13, 14 10:13 12:2,14 14:22 16:12 52:10.11

natural 56:23 nature 9:20

necessarily 58:11 64:7,8

needed 15:21 16:7 49:7 nighttime 32:4

no-nonsense 22:20

nonsense 23:8 normal 32:22

Notarial 6:3

notes 60:10

notice 30:1,5,6,9,16,19 35:23 36:7 37:3,8 45:11 46:15,21 49:16 50:19 56:2 63:5

Notices 31:5 47:1

notification 36:16 notifying 59:16 November 31:17 number 47:2 numbers 31:3 numerical 31:2 nurse 22:1,2

0

objection 29:13 42:3 47:4 48:19 49:1,13 56:4 59:4 61:21 63:14 64:6,22

occasions 10:23 16:6 occupation 6:12 occurred 25:20 54:6

October 18:5 19:10 20:22 22:16 27:14 30:22 60:3

Offhand 60:10

office 11:13 15:4 34:18 35:16 36:7 37:10 54:15 63:6

officer 9:8 10:19 12:5.11 25:1,16 33:3 46:22 59:1, 15

officers 10:7 13:7 26:5 52:3

offices 43:13

Oftentimes 16:17 22:9

open 60:15 opened 8:6

opinion 57:1

opportunity 40:21

opposed 34:4,18 58:18

order 12:6 14:12 15:22 17:22 18:13,15,17 19:5 26:13,22 28:8 30:19,20 31:7 33:22 36:4,8,22 37:5,23 38:2 40:6,12 42:23 43:6 44:23 45:1 46:19 47:3 48:11 49:8 50:12 51:1 58:13,18,19 59:2,7,12,14,16,17 60:14,18 61:13,15,20 62:1,9,15,17 63:6,12,15, 16,17,19,20,22 64:4,10,

ordered 28:11,17 ordering 60:12

orders 12:2 13:12 15:6 33:13 44:6,8,9,21 51:3 60:6,16 63:1 64:3

ordinary 14:2 32:22 original 40:11,22 Ossipee 26:10

Ρ

p.m. 65:9 paper 23:18 36:12 paragraph 19:13,16,20 21:5 38:6 39:20 40:7.12. 17 41:2 42:6,20 47:17, 19,23

paragraphs 44:16 parental 9:20 parenting 9:18 10:20 18:13 20:22 28:11 31:21 38:19 39:2,7,14,17 40:4, 22 41:13,16 44:19 45:12,

parents 28:12,13 32:4 42:1

part 7:13 42:23 56:14 58:10

part-time 8:16

parte 17:23 18:12,17

Partello 6:23 7:2 18:1 21:23 37:23 51:8 53:20 55:2.13 56:14 60:4

Partello/campbell 56:14

parties 20:13 21:6,12,18 22:13 28:20 36:18 38:10 39:6 42:4 48:23 59:3,16 63:2.6 64:3

party 21:10 22:13 passed 6:14

payment 21:6

pen 27:21 33:18

pending 6:10 59:23

people 34:3

perceive 10:19

percentage 21:5

period 7:23 8:9 25:6 52:12

periodically 15:14 16:19 58:13

person 11:3 15:23 16:9 22:21 51:2

personal 18:7,22 24:1,12 35:11 50:16 51:7,12 53:5

personality 11:2

personally 15:6 63:18

peruses 17:21 19:4 27:19 31:11 33:8 37:21 38:18 45:10,17 46:14 47:8 49:19 50:2,22 51:19

petitioner 21:14 31:20 39:4 59:10

petitioner's 31:12 36:1 43:16 50:3

Phil 30:2,14

phrase 25:22 34:1 42:9 44:11 58:12

phrases 44:1

picked 23:4

pile 12:7,8 14:8,10,14,15, 17 15:13 32:18

piles 37:16

place 7:8,15 15:11,17 52:14

places 8:10 35:13

plan 18:13 38:19 39:2,7, 8,14,18 40:4,22 41:16 44:20 45:12,19

plans 40:4 41:13

pleading 18:11 point 9:16 15:19 24:2 56:12

police 28:3,23 policies 65:1

poor 38:7

portions 43:15 Poulson 29:22

practice 9:17 17:9 42:12 44:4 62:6,8 64:15

practices 64:21 practicing 10:12,13

prayer 32:3,6 50:9

pravers 31:23 preference 32:8

preprinted 43:7,12,19 present 6:17 41:22 54:11

presented 42:10

presiding 26:12

pressure 22:13

presume 35:15

pretty 22:12 23:1 42:7 previous 42:19

previously 63:4

primarily 12:11 58:8

primary 16:20

print 14:13 43:19

printed 14:12 44:13

prior 7:7 12:20 22:16 26:1 43:4 48:17 64:3

problem 63:12

procedure 15:3 37:9 59:18

procedures 65:1

proceeding 6:11,21 23:8 process 36:7 61:23

processed 16:23 30:22 31:7 36:3 37:11 49:20 51:2

professional 6:13 28:18 professions 21:21

prohibited 28:20 property 26:14

proposal 42:5 43:16 58:18

proposals 58:11

proposed 39:3,7,8 41:23 43:18 44:23

protocols 32:17 public 56:3

published 55:20

pull 30:4

purpose 63:11 purposes 7:2

put 7:14 14:13 15:9 25:10 32:18 34:23 42:6 45:4

puts 22:8

Q

question 11:6 14:4,5 20:21 33:10,15 44:10 48:6 58:7 59:5 61:17,22, 23 63:11

questioning 28:20 29:3,8 questions 27:17 54:21 57:18 58:6 63:1 65:7

quick 58:6 quickly 14:1

Quigley 14:18 15:14 quotes 37:4

raised 60:11 randomly 23:4

range 20:21,23 reaction 56:19,21 57:1

read 23:17 25:11 26:13 53:3 56:2,16 57:2,3

reading 13:12,21 25:4 reads 25:1 34:9 39:14

ready 11:13

realized 56:14 63:23 reason 23:5,17 25:7

48:18 reasonable 20:9

reasons 26:22 55:10 recall 8:18 21:13,17

24:10,16 41:18 52:23 54:23 55:4 60:2,13

recantation 28:1

receive 36:16 received 8:20 45:22 48:14

receiving 52:23 53:7

recognize 40:19 54:19 recognizing 41:21 53:4 recollect 8:18 24:19

42:11 recollection 12:6 18:7 23:3 24:12 26:8 35:12 46:7 48:6 52:7 53:6 54:3.

12.17.55:12.59:21 recollections 51:11

21:15 recommendation 12:7 18:5 25:1,11 26:19 27:13 30:23 31:17,18 32:18 33:1,2,19 38:22 46:4 48:3,14 49:21 50:7,15,16 63:9.15

recommend 13:20 15:22

recommendations 12:23 13:4,5,9 14:1,10 15:7,18 16:23 19:18 24:18 26:2, 5.21 27:1 35:8 36:17

recommended 26:11 38:2

recommends 34:10 61:6 reconsideration 31:13

36:1 45:18 46:1,9,16,19 50:4,10 record 11:5 16:16 25:5 55:6,7,11 62:17 recusal 17:2.3 recused 63:10 refer 24:20 34:3 45:14 49:23 reference 19:2 40:16 references 47:23 referencing 52:6 referred 33:22 63:20 referring 14:21 31:15 33:12 55:21 regular 12:8 62:6,8 regularly 61:23 related 28:1 30:19 35:23 37:23 46:16 50:19 54:13 relation 54:6 56:17 relationship 10:9 24:1 relative 20:22 21:20 35:6 60:6 relief 31:23 32:3,6 50:9 remember 8:1 9:13,15 21:22 25:14 27:6 56:12, 13 58:3,4 62:1 rephrase 56:5 replaced 8:5 replenish 48:1 report 38:12 reporter 6:2 reports 23:2 represent 6:10 40:23 representation 48:22 represented 32:9 request 32:1 requested 50:8 requesting 19:17 required 20:15 requiring 25:20 research 27:7 resources 20:14,17 respondent 21:14 47:15, 23 51:8 54:1 Respondent's 50:4 response 58:7 responses 54:23 restate 61:17 retainer 48:1 retired 17:11 reveal 57:10 review 6:12 14:16 25:16 27:11 29:19 31:9 33:6 35:8 36:1 37:14,19 40:21 45:8 46:12 47:6 51:14 reviewed 35:18 46:4 56:19 57:5 reviewer 24:18

rid 41:17

rights 9:20 RN 22:1 Robin 18:1 51:8 60:4 Rockingham 8:2 role 25:15 **RSA** 6:3 rule 16:4 26:1 36:20 49:12 rules 36:21 run 43:19 s safe 62:11 Salem 8:8.14 9:1.7 sat 12:2 52:21 save 16:10 scan 27:18 scenario 63:13 scheduled 38:13 scheduling 37:22 screen 29:22 30:14 51:18,20,22 52:7 section 40:17 select 32:14 selected 23:4.6 selection 23:20 send 58:11 sense 7:18 11:21,23 12:13 21:2,20 22:11,14 25:19 sentence 40:8 separate 14:15 27:1 29:21 34:4 separately 39:8 **serve** 6:18 **served** 16:13 serving 22:17 58:1 set 19:20 20:1,8 settlement 38:7 share 11:17.19 29:22 51:18 **shared** 30:15 shoe 12:20 showed 52:1 side 22:23 sign 14:13 15:17 16:3 34:20 61:10 62:11 signature 33:14 34:11 signed 13:21 15:6 18:4 33:17 34:18 36:13 49:21 significantly 21:10 signing 12:7,8 14:13,21 15:7 32:19 34:20,21 35:1,13,14 similar 59:11 sir 27:5 sitting 7:9 9:9 12:14 34:22

situations 23:10 **skip** 13:8 **smile** 11:10 smiling 11:5 26:9 software 43:14 somebody's 56:22 sort 41:9 sounds 34:2 56:21 South 8:2 **spare** 15:16 speak 42:21 speaking 48:7 specific 35:17,18 44:1 45:4 54:3,17 56:15 60:18 **specifically** 10:1 15:10 24:10 29:3 31:23 56:10 60:1.13 specifics 53:21 spent 52:11 split 8:13 21:9,15 splitting 8:17 spoke 48:21 56:10 squiggly 40:2 41:9 42:19 staff 15:23 16:9 17:7 stamp 18:19,23 34:9,13, 17 35:6,8 46:2,5 47:11 50:14,16 61:5,16 stamped 33:14 45:21 50:5 **stamps** 33:12 standard 25:12,16 26:7 start 12:21 15:12 17:18 23:7 42:7 started 7:16,21 9:14 17:10 32:12 42:16,17 state 6:7,12 58:2 stated 25:16 32:12 statement 7:15 41:5.10 55:21 56:2,16,20 57:5 stating 63:19 64:16 **step** 16:10 Sternenberg 22:4,17 24:1,17 28:15 60:7 Sternenberg's 29:11 stop 54:15 stream 55:8 strike 28:6 37:14 41:5,8 50:3,8,19 stuff 14:19 20:12,18 25:13 44:14 subject 53:10 subjects 54:16 submit 39:7 subsequent 28:1 **substantive** 60:6 64:13 suggestion 18:2 superior 8:9 10:23 26:10 support 10:4 18:15 44:23 45:1

supposed 12:21 supreme 26:19 **switch** 37:16 sworn 6:2 system 15:1 33:21 37:1 52:18,20 Т taking 16:16 54:19 talk 11:14 15:22 54:15 talked 10:15 talking 11:15 24:14 25:21 43:10 47:16,17 tape 41:12 42:13,17,20 43:3,22 44:5,13 63:13 technology 55:8 temporary 18:11,12,13 20:4 21:4 37:22 38:10 39:17 40:3,6 ten 20:19 34:22 49:3 53:14 ten-day 48:17 49:1 term 34:3,7 60:17 termination 9:19 terminations 10:5 terms 10:18 11:2 58:16, 19 59:15 terrific 61:4 test 54:21 testified 6:4 testify 57:17 testimony 13:7,15,23 21:3 44:18 56:1 text 37:4 62:2,7 thing 49:4 59:6 things 9:20 54:16 thought 26:14 47:19 thoughts 58:23 threw 14:18 time 7:6,7,16,21,23 8:9, 13,17 9:2,8,14 10:20 11:15,22 12:6,11 22:2,11 25:6,9 26:7,12 28:8,11 31:21 33:23 45:21 47:14 52:12 55:2,14,16 56:9 57:2,12,17,19 62:13,20 times 9:5 11:12 14:20 16:17 20:13 told 13:11 26:17 57:9,11 63:4 top 18:19 39:2,14 41:3 45:21 topic 41:20 tough 23:1 track 16:7 transferred 8:8 transition 9:7 51:5 transitioned 52:13

suppose 17:5 41:20

transitioning 8:18 transportation 41:20,23 transposed 59:10 trial 12:18,19 57:17 trouble 56:21,23 turn 40:9 55:9 twelve 12:19.22 34:22 type 14:12 15:2,3 43:6 44:3,19 48:18 typed 43:15 **types** 23:12 29:18 33:1 44:20 typical 32:16

umpire 62:10

unavailability 32:8

unavailable 32:12 unclear 33:15 undergone 28:22 understand 9:17 14:4 15:5 39:6 44:18 56:1 58:6,20 61:18 understanding 25:22 57:16 Understood 44:18 uniform 18:14 44:23 **unique** 34:13 Untimely 50:4 unusual 36:6 urgency 49:11

٧

versus 6:23 7:1 18:2 video 55:8,9 view 59:17 violence 10:3 visit 47:14 visits 49:8 volume 12:13 13:8,9

W

wanted 32:13 49:4,7,14

wax 64:4 ways 54:20 Waystack 27:7,10 29:13, 20 30:3,5,10,16 41:5,8 42:3 47:4 49:13 56:4 57:22 62:23 63:14 64:6, 22 65:6 website 43:13,20 week 7:9 36:15 52:9 57:8

weekend 36:14 well-liked 10:12 white 45:3 58:10 62:7,14 63:18.23 White-out 41:1,3,12,13 42:13,14 43:2,21 44:5

whited 41:19 42:9 61:15

whiting 62:1

window 48:17 49:1

withstand 22:12

word 18:2

words 13:16 24:5 41:17 44:12 58:17 60:14,15 61:19

work 9:11 16:12 20:15 21:22 22:22

workday 16:6

worked 6:16 16:20 18:8 21:23

21:23

working 8:15 10:9

worries 30:17

write 14:11 42:5 44:1 58:20 61:14,16,21

written 62:1

wrote 42:7 61:14 62:10

Wyman 26:12

Υ

year 7:7,11 8:1,16 9:13, 15 25:14 27:6

years 8:7,8 10:22 15:2 20:20 26:10 42:12 58:4

Z

zoom 55:4,9